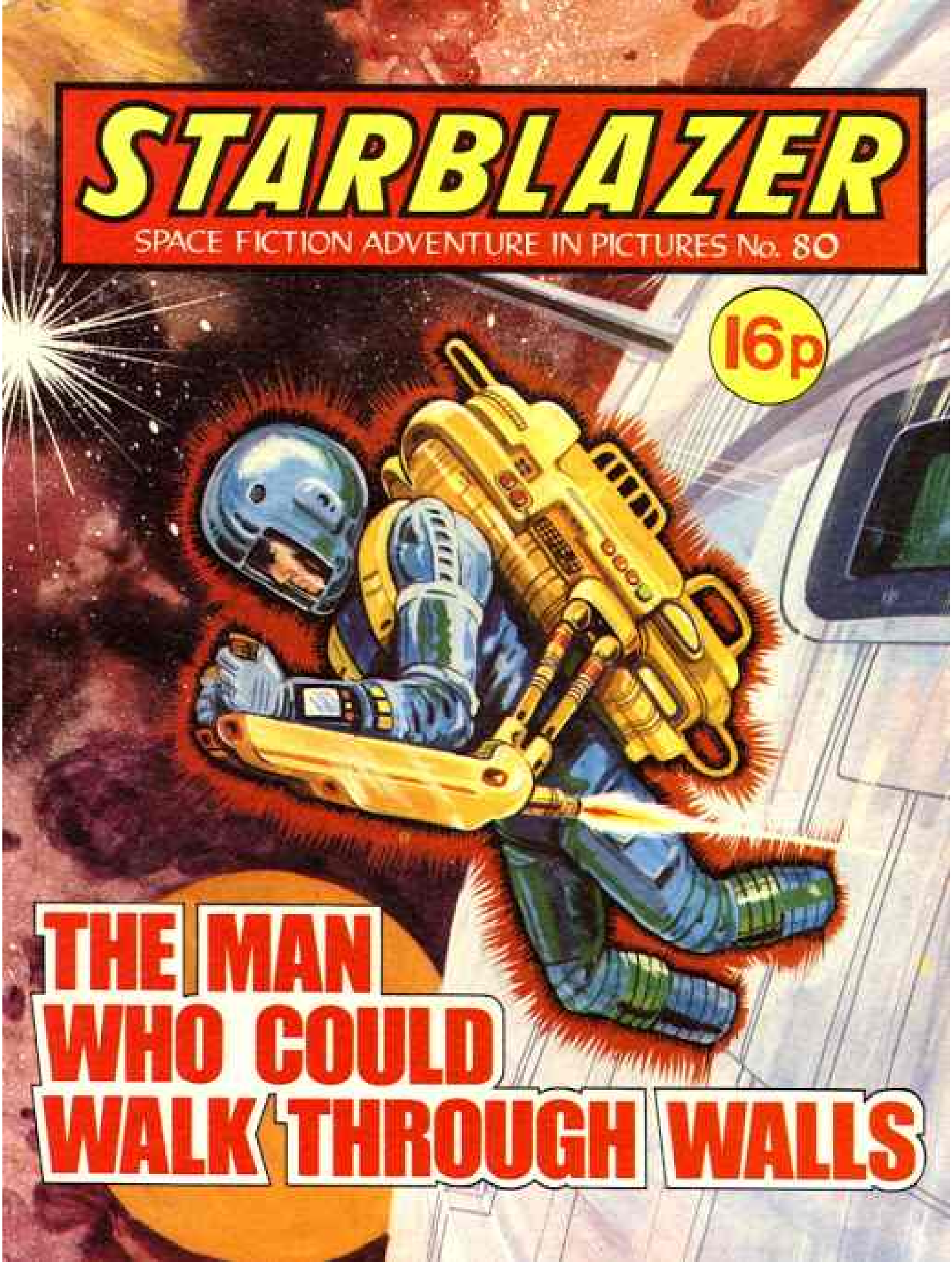
STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 80

16p



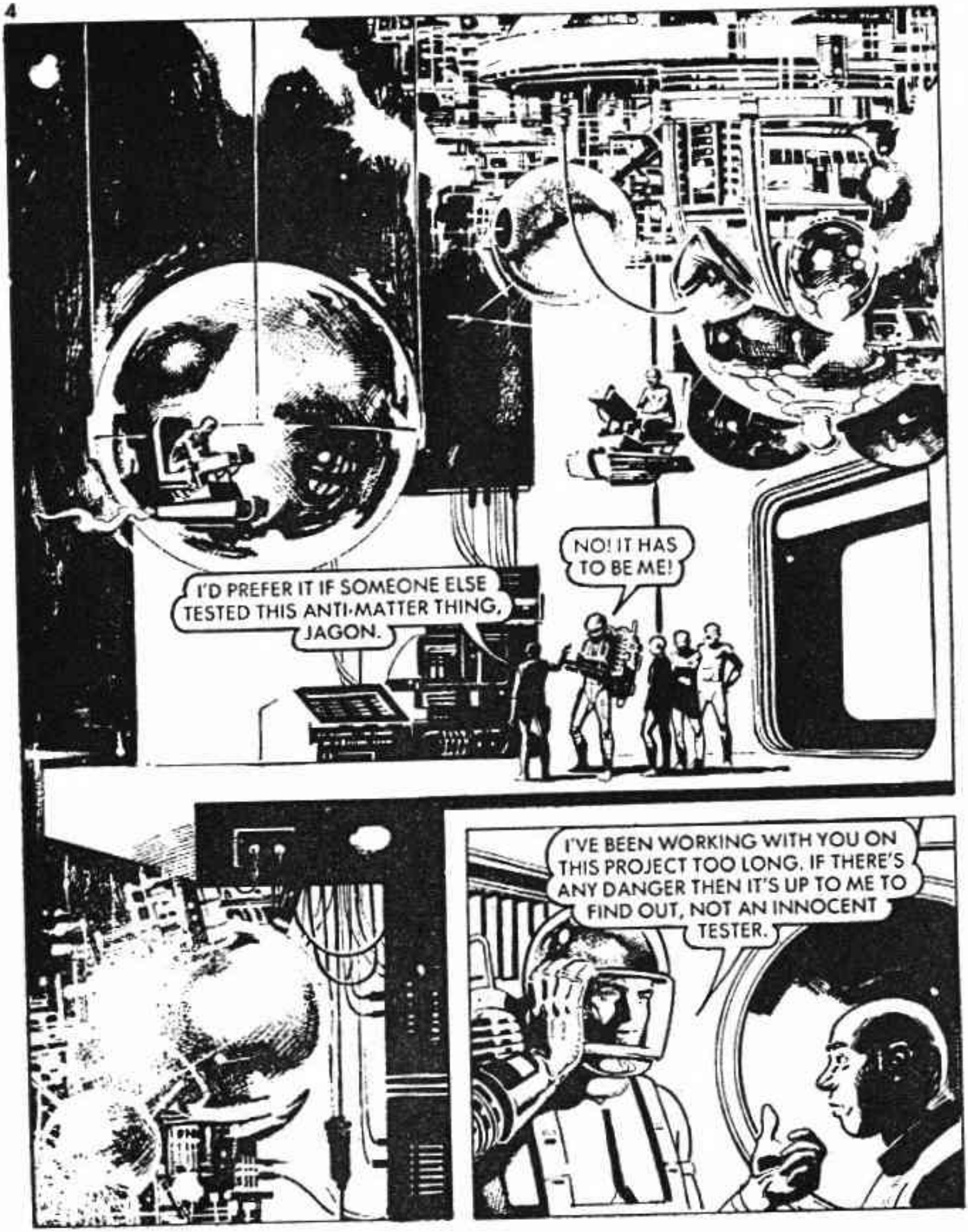
THE MAN WHO COULD WALK THROUGH WALLS

STARBLAZER

ALL ATOMS ARE HOLLOW STRUCTURES WITH A WEB-LIKE 'SHELL' OF ENERGY—INSIDE MOVE OTHER PARTICLES OF ENERGY. ATOMS ARE 98% NOTHING.

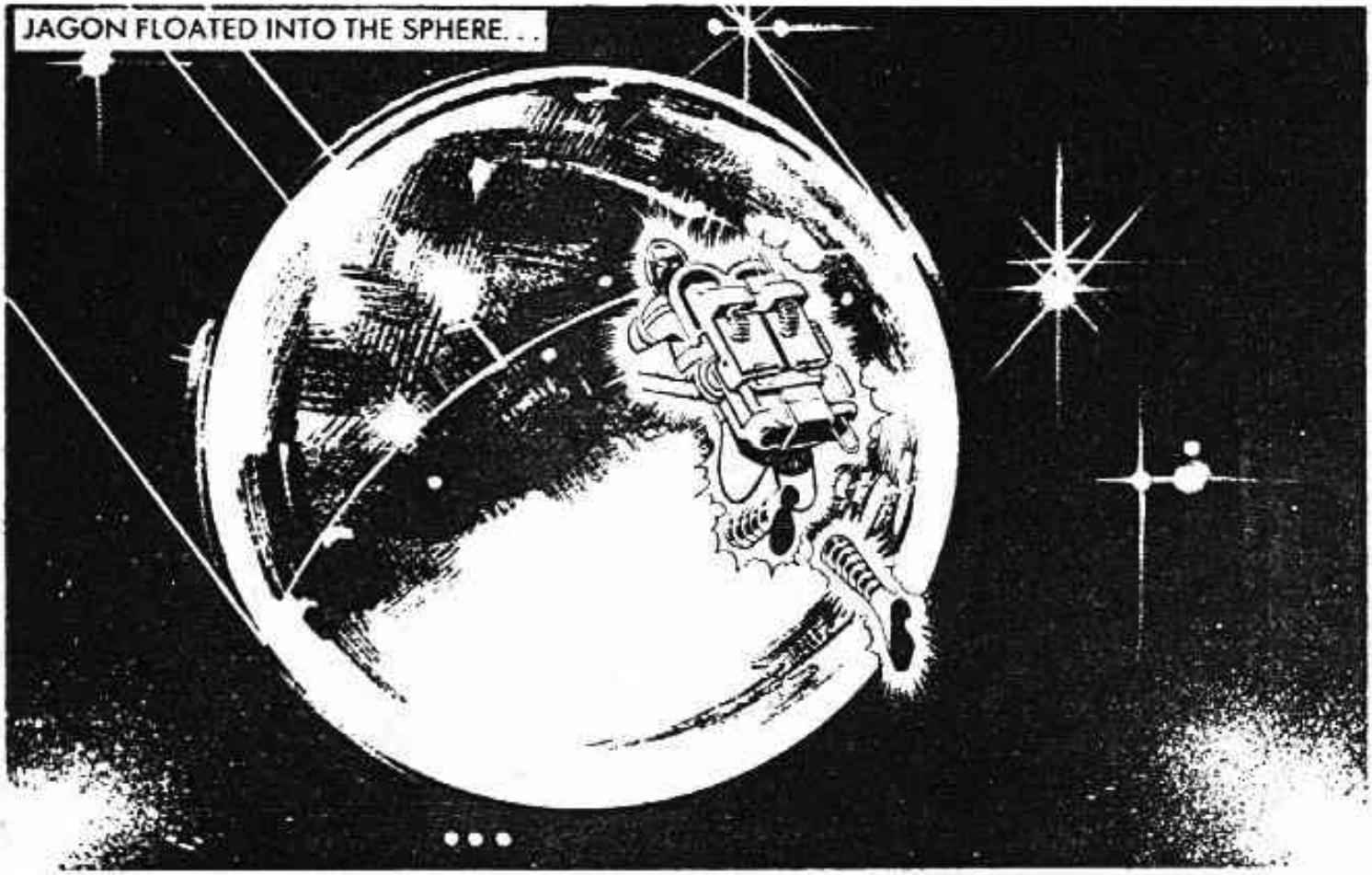
USING ALL THIS SPACE, SCIENTISTS THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE TO PASS ONE SOLID OBJECT THROUGH ANOTHER. BY HARNESSING THE PROPERTIES OF ANTI-MATTER, THE TWO OBJECTS MIGHT BE MADE TO AVOID EACH OTHER LIKE OIL AND WATER. A SPACECRAFT THUS EQUIPPED WOULD BE INVINCIBLE—NOTHING COULD DESTROY IT—BUT FIRST IT HAD TO BE TESTED . . .

THE MAN WHO COULD WALK THROUGH WALLS


I'D PREFER IT IF SOMEONE ELSE TESTED THIS ANTI-MATTER THING, JAGON.
NO! IT HAS TO BE ME!
I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH YOU ON THIS PROJECT TOO LONG. IF THERE'S ANY DANGER THEN IT'S UP TO ME TO FIND OUT, NOT AN INNOCENT TESTER.

REMEMBER, YOU'LL BE TOTALLY OUT OF CONTACT WITH US THE MOMENT YOU SWITCH ON.
WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE. I'M DEACTIVATING THE GRAVITY FIELD NOW—GOOD LUCK!
AS THE ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY COLLAPSED, JAGON ACTIVATED HIS JET PROPULSION UNIT, AND FLOATED OUT THE AIRLOCK —

A SPLIT SECOND LATER, JAGON WAS IN THE VOID OF EMPTY SPACE . . .
THAT'S SOLID TRIPURNIUM STEEL! IF I CAN GO THROUGH THAT, I CAN GO THROUGH ANYTHING!
JAGON ACTIVATED THE ANT-MATTER DEVICE, THE ZETA PARTICLE MACHINE —


JAGON FLOATED INTO THE SPHERE. . .
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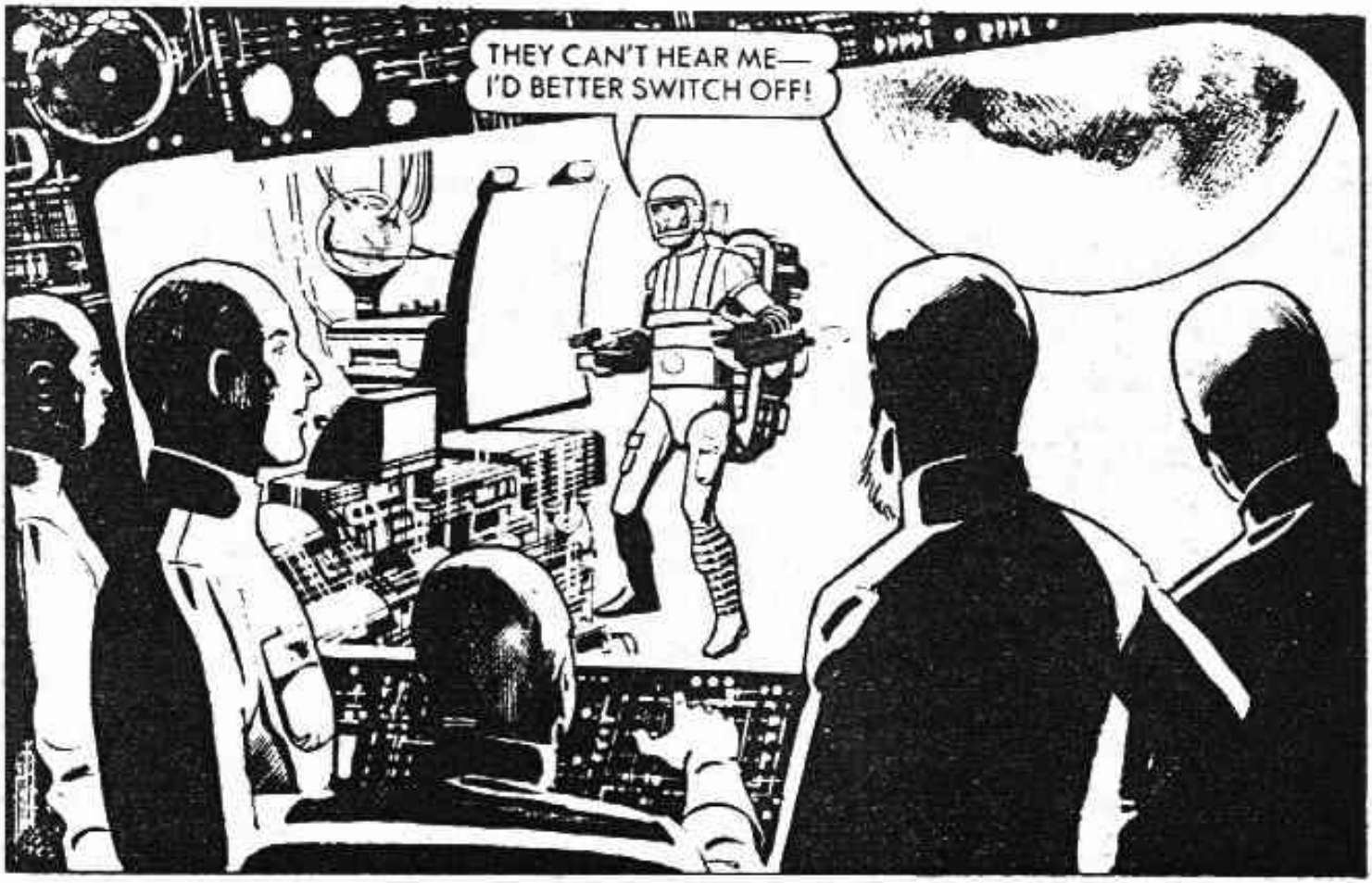
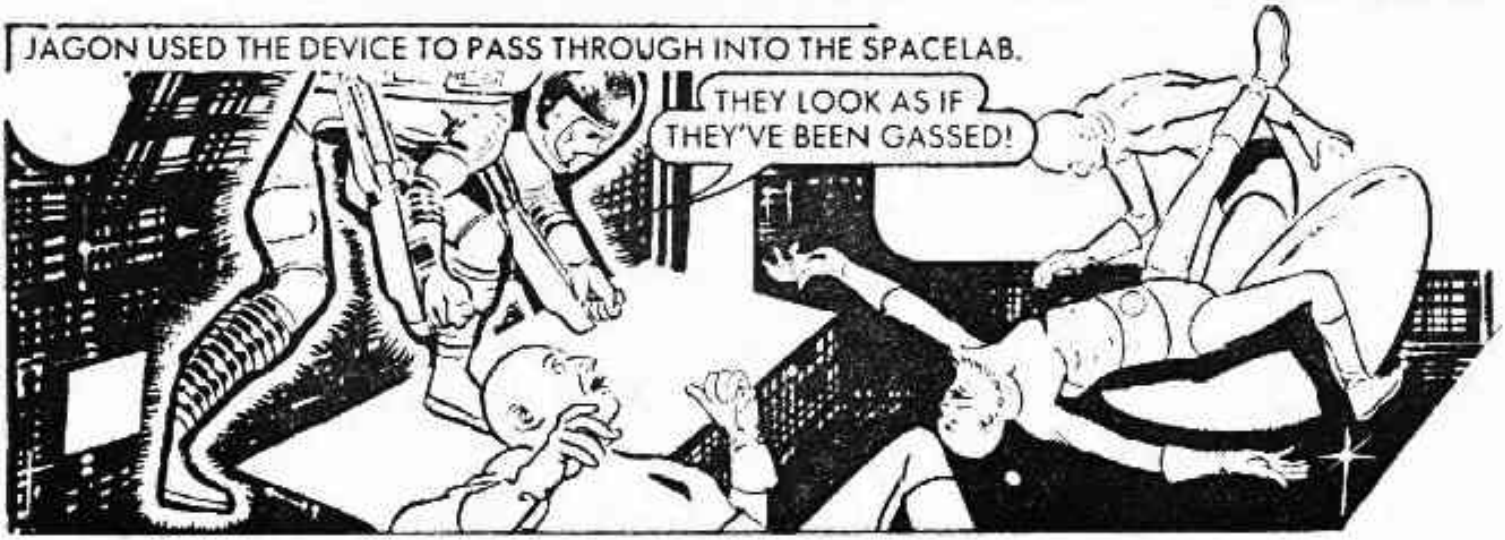
. . . AND OUT THE OTHER SIDE.
IT WORKED!


THEY CAN'T HEAR ME—
I'D BETTER SWITCH OFF!

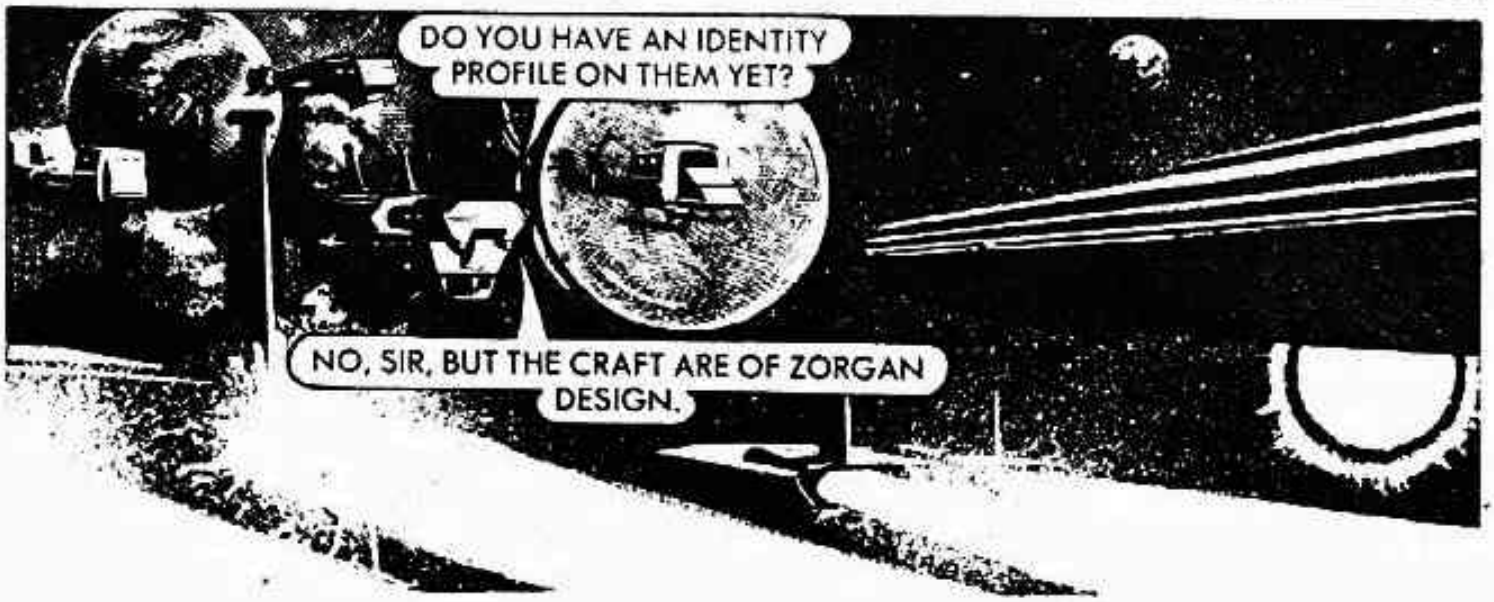
. . . AA . . . AARGH . . .
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT'S GOING ON?


JAGON USED THE DEVICE TO PASS THROUGH INTO THE SPACELAB.
THEY LOOK AS IF THEY'VE BEEN GASSED!

JAGON SWITCHED OFF HIS SUIT—

EVEN AS JAGON SPOKE THE BATTLE SCREEN FILLED WITH A SQUADRON OF UNIDENTIFIED SHIPS.

THE FLOATING LAB'S DEFENCE FORCES WERE HASTILY SCRAMBLED.
ALL SHIPS TO BATTLE STATIONS! IT'S THE SPACE LAB THEY'RE AFTER.


DO YOU HAVE AN IDENTITY PROFILE ON THEM YET?
NO, SIR, BUT THE CRAFT ARE OF ZORGAN DESIGN.

THE SMALL SQUAD OF GUARD SHIPS RIPPED FORWARD TO ATTACK—
STOP THEM AT ALL COSTS!
THE EARTH ATTACK WAS FEROCIOUS, BUT THE ODDS WERE TOO GREAT.

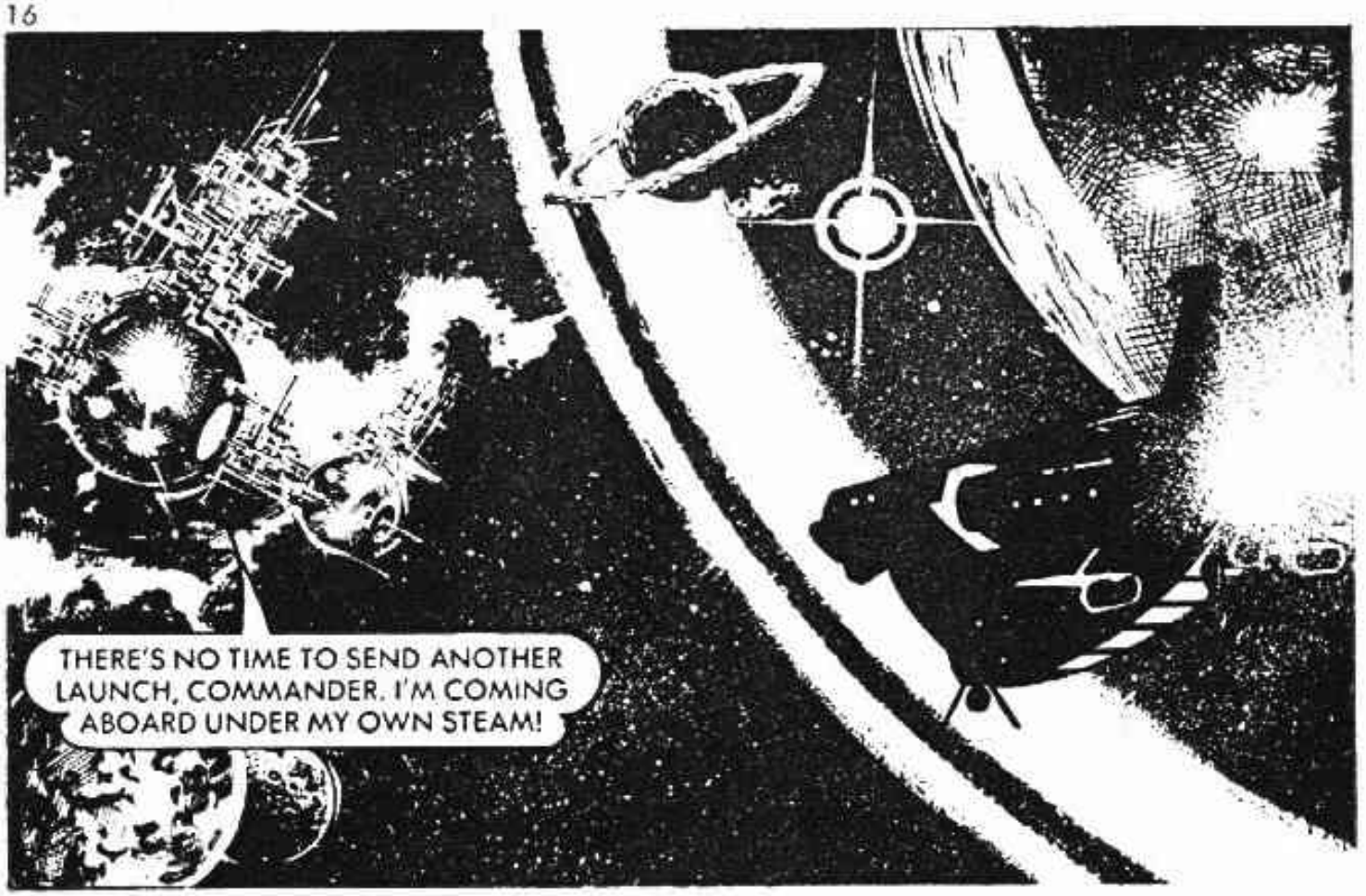
THEY'RE GOING TO GET US BEFORE LONG, JAGON.
YOU'LL HAVE TO BLOW THE LAB UP. THEY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO CAPTURE THE ZETA EXPERIMENT!

I'LL SEND A LAUNCH TO PICK YOU UP.
I'LL BE OUTSIDE DOCKING PORT 'A' IN TWENTY SECONDS.

I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE THE SHORT CUT!
SECONDS LATER, USING THE ZETA DEVICE, JAGON EMERGED THROUGH THE LAB'S PRESSURE SHELL.
HERE COMES THE LAUNCH FOR ME.

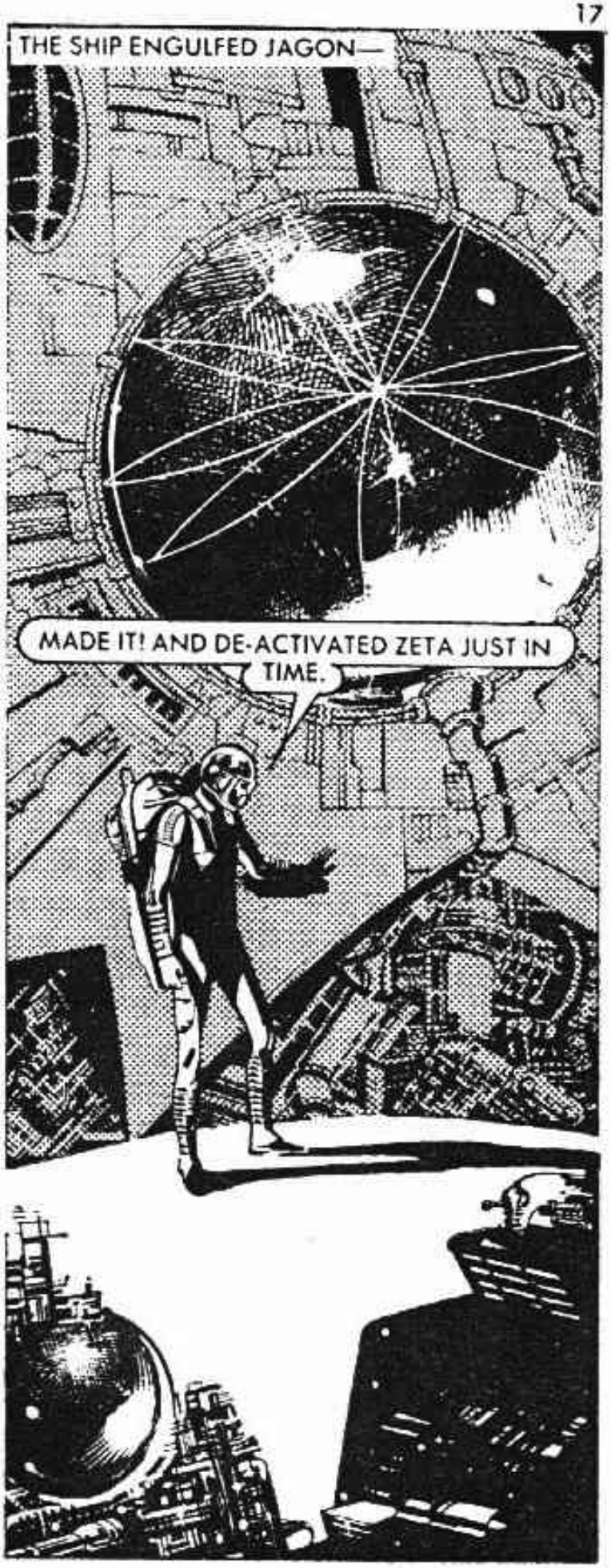
GET READY FOR PICK-UP! BE AS QUICK AS YOU CAN, THINGS ARE GETTING HOT OUT HERE.

AS THE PILOT MADE HIS FINAL MANOEUVRE —
THEY'VE GOT THE LAUNCH.


THERE'S NO TIME TO SEND ANOTHER LAUNCH, COMMANDER. I'M COMING ABOARD UNDER MY OWN STEAM!

YOU'RE RIGHT IN OUR PATH. WE'LL SMASH YOU!
KEEP COMING. YOU WON'T IF I GET THIS RIGHT!

AS THE WARSHIP CLOSED IN RAPIDLY JAGON ACTIVATED THE ZETA.
HERE GOES!


THE SHIP ENGULFED JAGON—
MADE IT! AND DE-ACTIVATED ZETA JUST IN TIME.

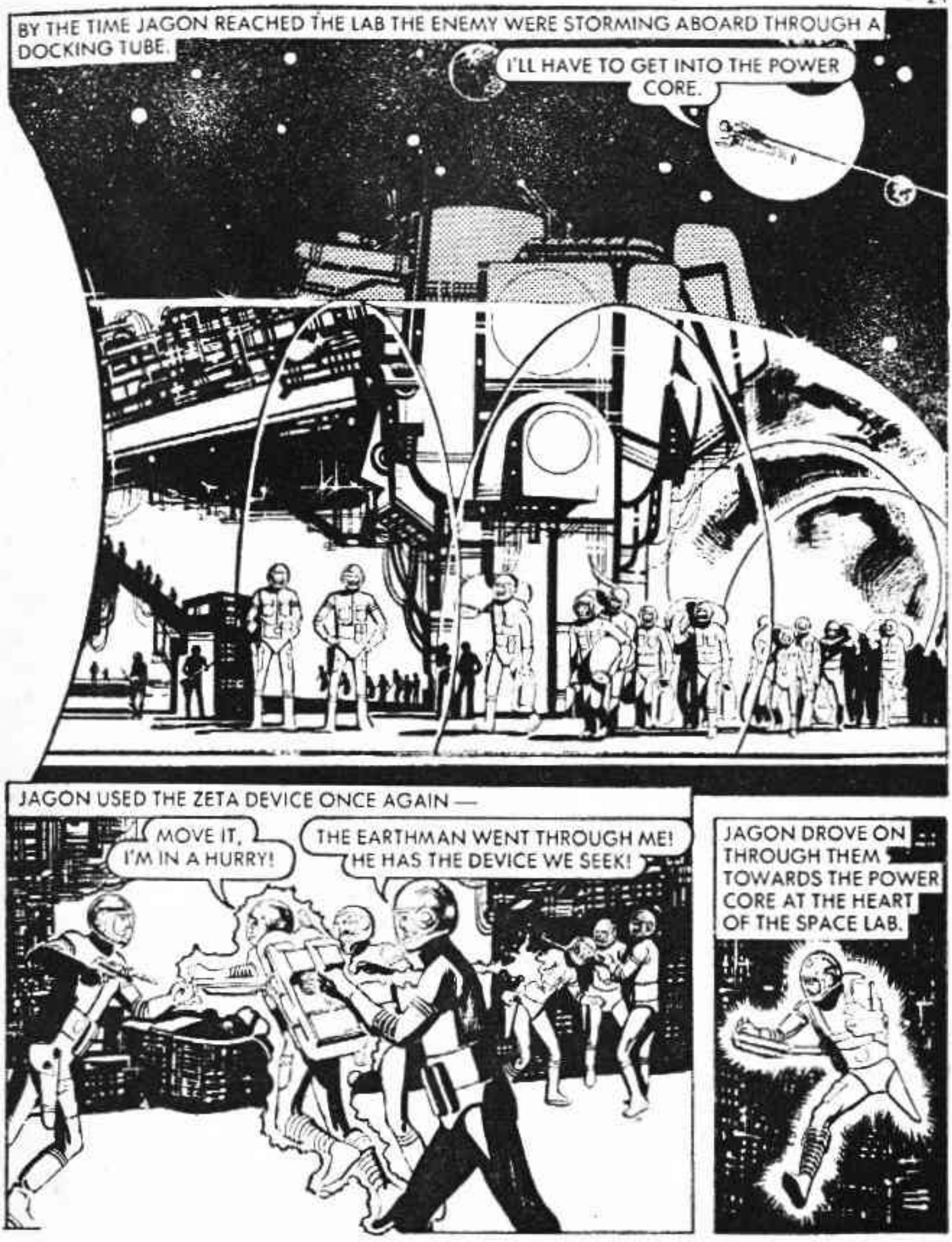
OKAY, COMMANDER, I'M ABOARD! BLOW THE LAB APART!

SUDDENLY THE SHIP HEAVED AS AN ENEMY PHOTON BOLT BLASTED THROUGH ITS SHIELDS—
THEY'VE GOT US! WE'VE LOST CONTROL!

THE FUEL BANKS ARE DESTABILISING! THEY'RE GOING TO BLOW! . . . HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
JAGON HIT THE ZETA BUTTON AS THE SHIP DISINTEGRATED—

JAGON WAS LEFT DRIFTING IN THE WRECKAGE—SAFE, BUT ALONE.
ALL OUR SHIPS ARE GONE!

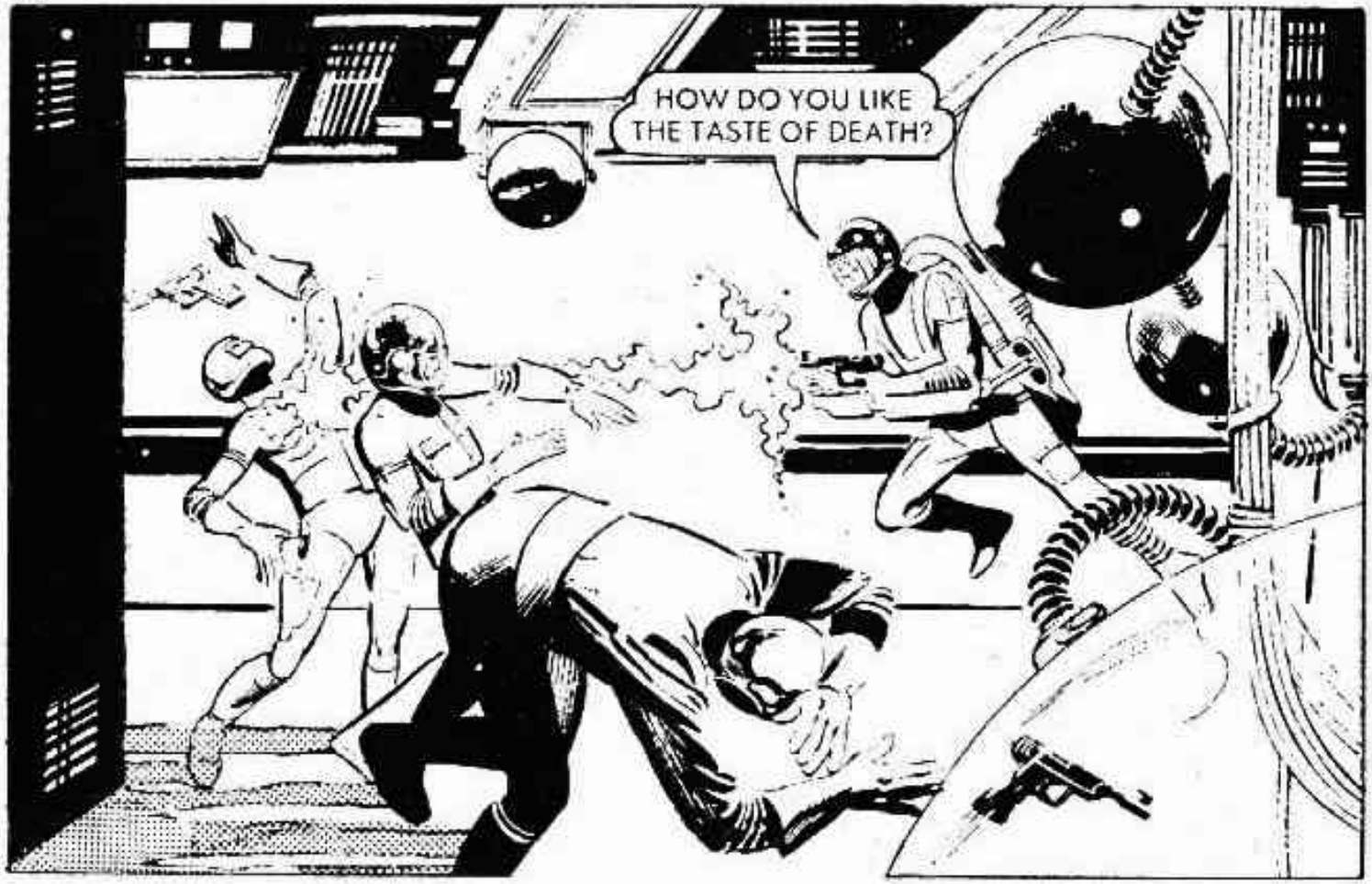
THE ALIENS ARE GOING TO DOCK WITH SPACE LAB. ONCE THEY GET THE ZETA BLUEPRINTS THEY'LL HAVE THE GALAXY AT THEIR MERCY. I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK AND BLOW THE LAB.


BY THE TIME JAGON REACHED THE LAB THE ENEMY WERE STORMING ABOARD THROUGH A DOCKING TUBE.
I'LL HAVE TO GET INTO THE POWER CORE.
JAGON USED THE ZETA DEVICE ONCE AGAIN —
MOVE IT, I'M IN A HURRY!
THE EARTHMAN WENT THROUGH ME! HE HAS THE DEVICE WE SEEK!
JAGON DROVE ON THROUGH THEM TOWARDS THE POWER CORE AT THE HEART OF THE SPACE LAB.

AT LAST JAGON FOUND HIMSELF INSIDE THE CORE'S CONTROL ROOM.
I'LL HAVE TO DEACTIVATE THE SAFETY SYSTEMS FIRST —
THE EARTHMAN! KILL HIM!
I HAVEN'T FINISHED!
ONLY THE ZETA PARTICLE DEVICE PROTECTED HIM—
THEY CAN'T HURT ME, BUT I CAN'T GET AT THE SAFETY SYSTEM.
IT'S NO USE. STOP FIRING!

I'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF THEM FIRST!
HE'S ESCAPING!

JAGON REAPPEARED BEHIND THE BEWILDERED ALIENS —
TIME TO STOP PLAYING. LET'S HAVE THAT BLASTER.


HOW DO YOU LIKE THE TASTE OF DEATH?

ANOTHER MINUTE AND I'LL HAVE BROKEN THE SAFETY TRIPS. I . . . I FEEL . . .

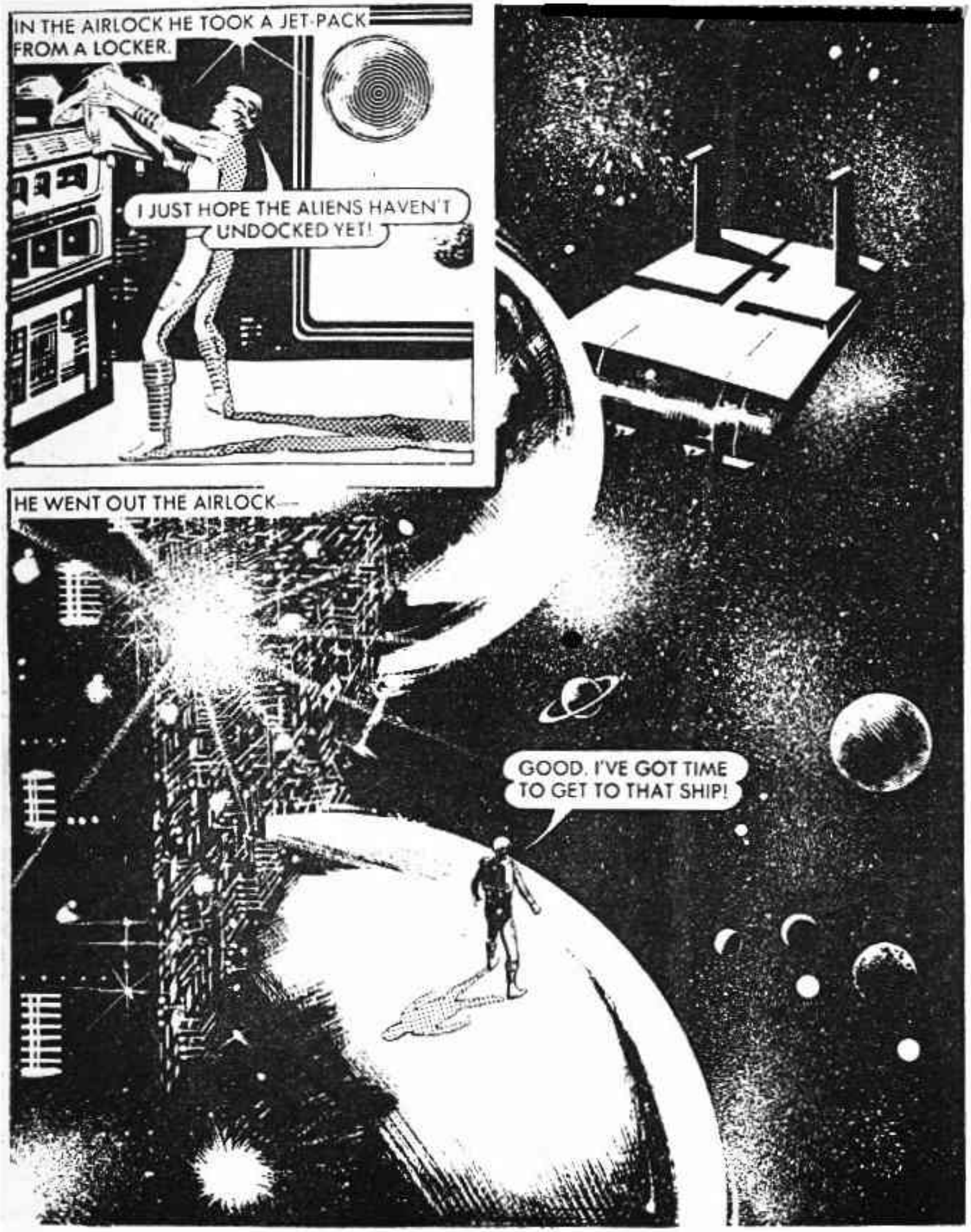
A BLACK WHIRLWIND SEEMED TO TEAR THROUGH JAGON'S BRAIN AND HE COLLAPSED UNCONSCIOUS. HE'D USED THE ZETA ONCE TOO OFTEN—

HE WAS STILL UNCONSCIOUS AN HOUR LATER WHEN HE WAS DISCOVERED.
IS THIS THE COMPLETED ZETA DEVICE, VEEDOL?
YES! UNFORTUNATELY HE WAS STILL USING IT WHEN I DISCHARGED THE GAS TO KILL EVERYONE!
SHALL I KILL HIM NOW?
NO NEED TO! WITH THIS AND ALL THE DATA TAPES AND EQUIPMENT, WE'VE GOT MORE THAN WE WANT!

HE WILL DIE ALONG WITH THE LAB WHEN WE BLOW IT.

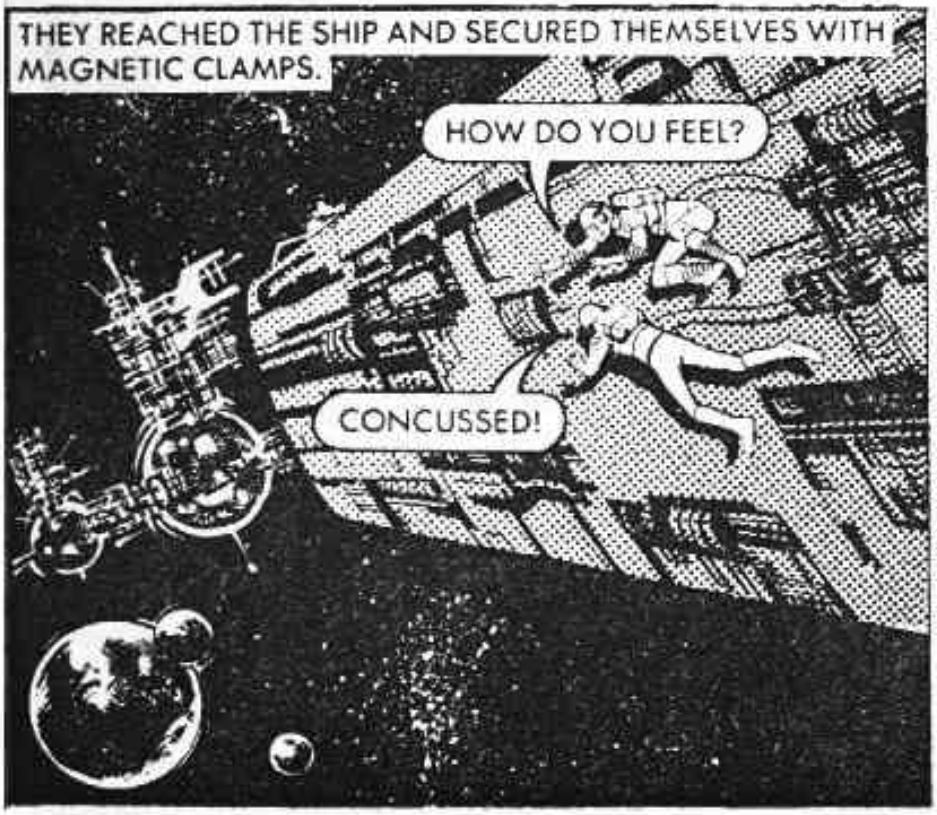
EARTH WON'T BE SURE EXACTLY WHAT WE'VE STOLEN IF THERE IS NO EVIDENCE.
THAT'S VEEDOL—AN EARTH SCIENTIST! HE WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT. I'LL FIX THE SLIMY CREEP.

THE ALIENS LEFT AND TWO MINUTES LATER, JAGON WAS RACING ALONG THE DESERTED CORRIDORS.
I MUST REACH AN EMERGENCY AIRLOCK BEFORE THEY LEAVE.


IN THE AIRLOCK HE TOOK A JET-PACK FROM A LOCKER.
I JUST HOPE THE ALIENS HAVEN'T UNDOCKED YET!
HE WENT OUT THE AIRLOCK—
GOOD. I'VE GOT TIME TO GET TO THAT SHIP!

AS JAGON BEGAN TO JET ACROSS TO THE VESSEL—
A NOISE IN MY HEADPAK—SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE IS ALIVE—AND NEARBY. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET A FIX ON HIM.
STEREO SENSORS QUICKLY FOUND THE SOURCE OF THE NOISE . . .
IT'S THE LAUNCH PILOT! HE'S STILL ALIVE. YOU'D BETTER COME ALONG WITH ME.

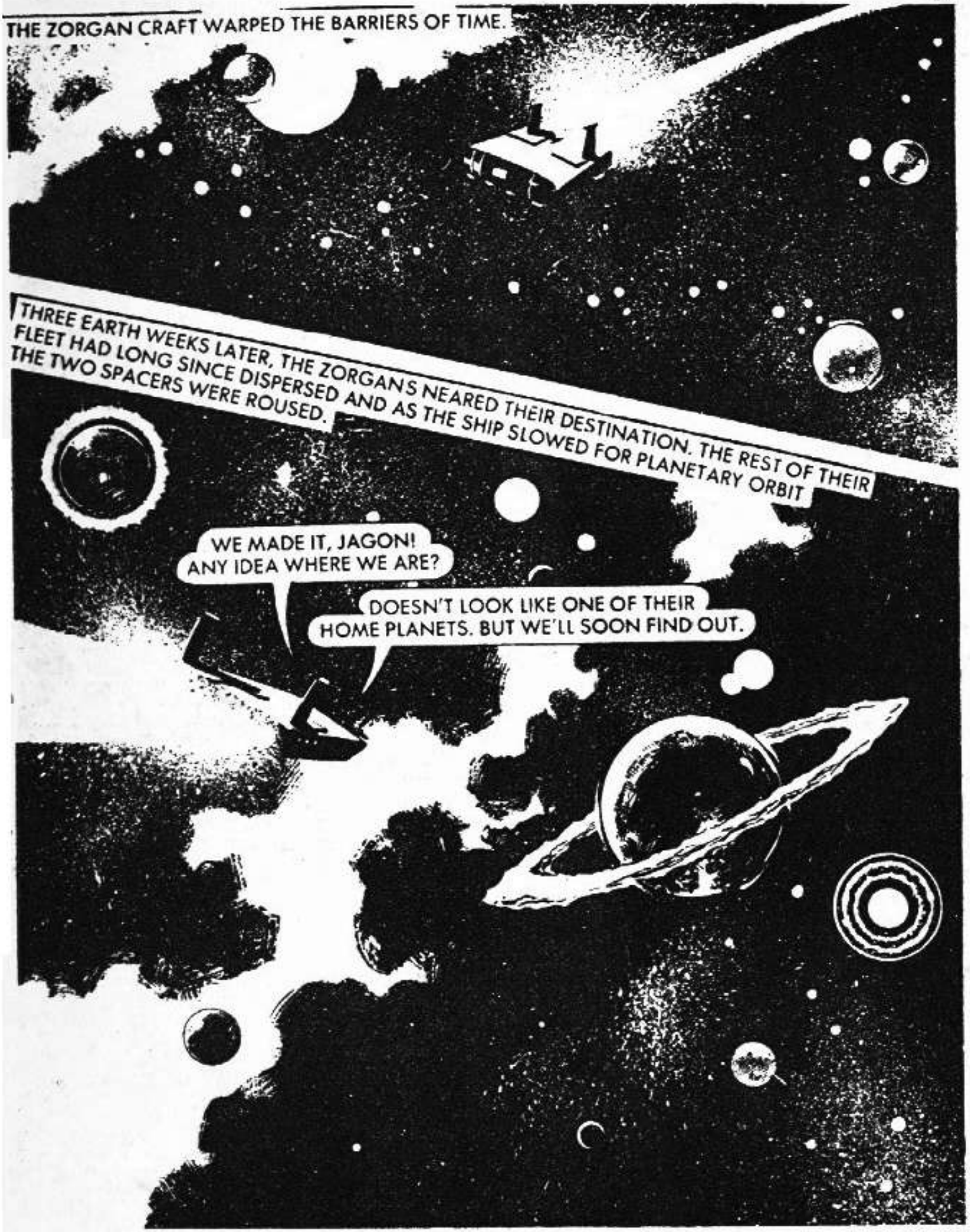
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU'RE OKAY FOR THE MOMENT. JUST RELAX AND TAKE IT EASY.

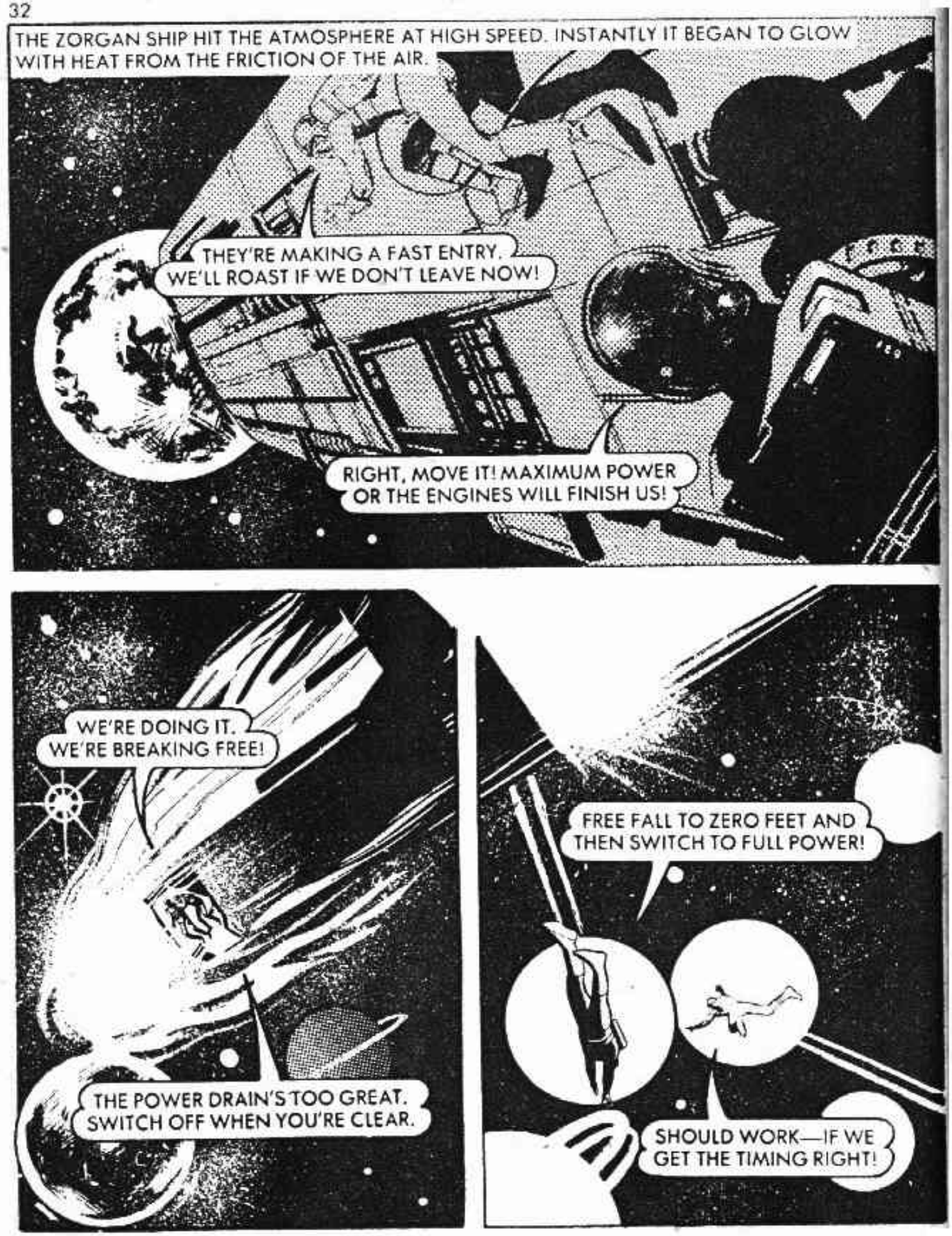

THEY REACHED THE SHIP AND SECURED THEMSELVES WITH MAGNETIC CLAMPS.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
CONCUSSED!

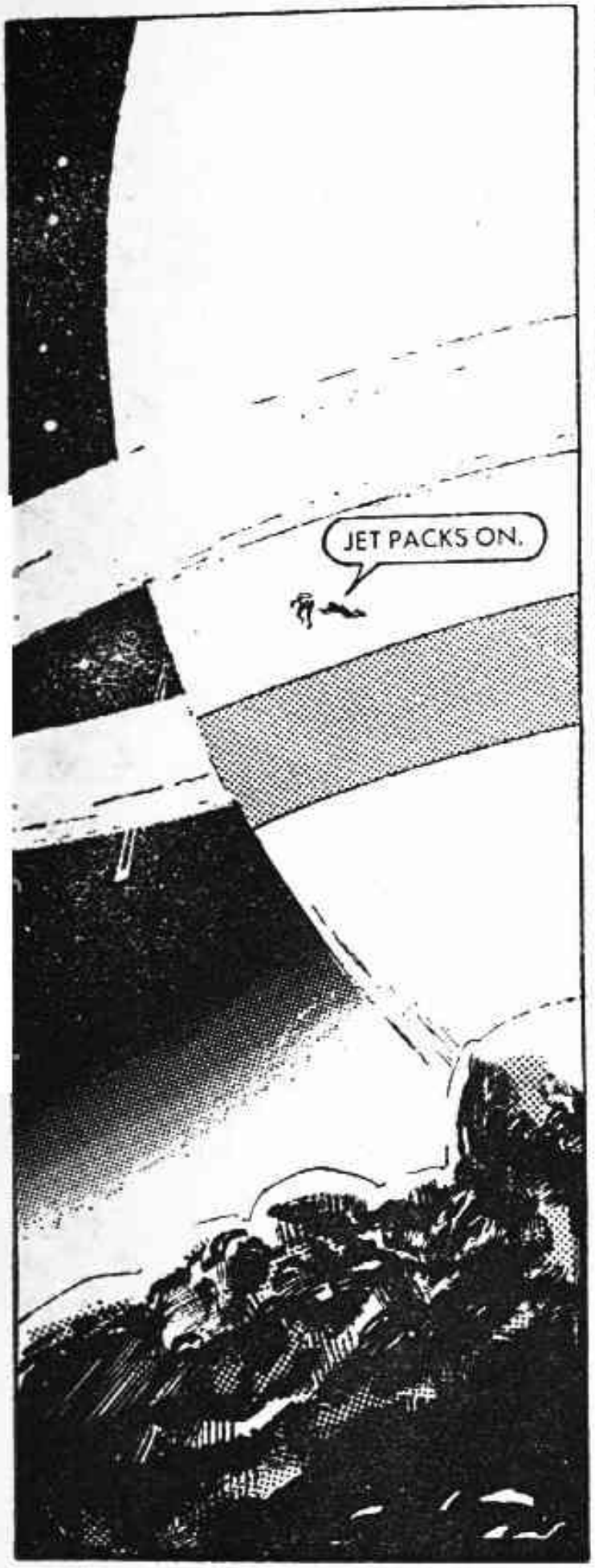
THERE GOES THE LAB! THEY'LL BE ON THEIR WAY NOW.

WE CAN'T GET INSIDE WITHOUT BEING NOTICED. SO WE'LL HAVE TO ACTIVATE OUR SURVIVAL UNITS.
THESE ALIENS ARE ZORGANS, AND IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, WERE DISARMED BY EARTH ABOUT FIFTY YEARS AGO.

THE SURVIVAL UNITS WILL SWITCH OFF AUTOMATICALLY AS SOON AS THEY SENSE THE SHIP SLOWING.
THEY SWITCHED ON AND INSTANTLY FADED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS.


THE ZORGAN CRAFT WARPED THE BARRIERS OF TIME.
THREE EARTH WEEKS LATER, THE ZORGANS NEARED THEIR DESTINATION. THE REST OF THEIR FLEET HAD LONG SINCE DISPERSED AND AS THE SHIP SLOWED FOR PLANETARY ORBIT THE TWO SPACERS WERE ROUSED.
WE MADE IT, JAGON! ANY IDEA WHERE WE ARE?
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ONE OF THEIR HOME PLANETS. BUT WE'LL SOON FIND OUT.


THE ZORGAN SHIP HIT THE ATMOSPHERE AT HIGH SPEED. INSTANTLY IT BEGAN TO GLOW WITH HEAT FROM THE FRICTION OF THE AIR.
THEY'RE MAKING A FAST ENTRY. WE'LL ROAST IF WE DON'T LEAVE NOW!
RIGHT, MOVE IT! MAXIMUM POWER OR THE ENGINES WILL FINISH US!
WE'RE DOING IT. WE'RE BREAKING FREE!
THE POWER DRAIN'S TOO GREAT. SWITCH OFF WHEN YOU'RE CLEAR.
FREE FALL TO ZERO FEET AND THEN SWITCH TO FULL POWER!
SHOULD WORK—IF WE GET THE TIMING RIGHT!


JET PACKS ON.

THEY DESCENDED IN PROTECTIVE BUBBLES—
MY PACK'S DRAINED. I'VE NO MORE POWER!

MY FREE FALL SYSTEM HAS FAILED.
HANG ON TO ME!

THE JET'S NOT STRONG ENOUGH FOR TWO—IT'S GOING TO BE A ROUGH LANDING!

THEY SMASHED THROUGH THE TREES

YOU'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE.
JUST! DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE?

I THINK WE ARE ON A MINOR ZORGAN PLANET.
WE'RE ON A LARGE LEDGE AND THERE'S NO WAY OFF IT—UP OR DOWN!

BORG SHOWED JAGON A VIDPIC ON HIS WRIST SCANNER.
THAT'S THE ONLY ZORGAN BUILDING, AND IT'S OVER A HUNDRED MILES AWAY.
THE PLANET LOOKS DESERTED. THERE ARE NO ROADS, AIR TRAFFIC, TOWNS — NOTHING!

THAT MEANS THEY'LL FEEL SECURE AND WE COULD WALK INTO THE PLACE UNNOTICED.
PROVIDING WE CAN GET OFF THIS CLIFF AND GET THERE!

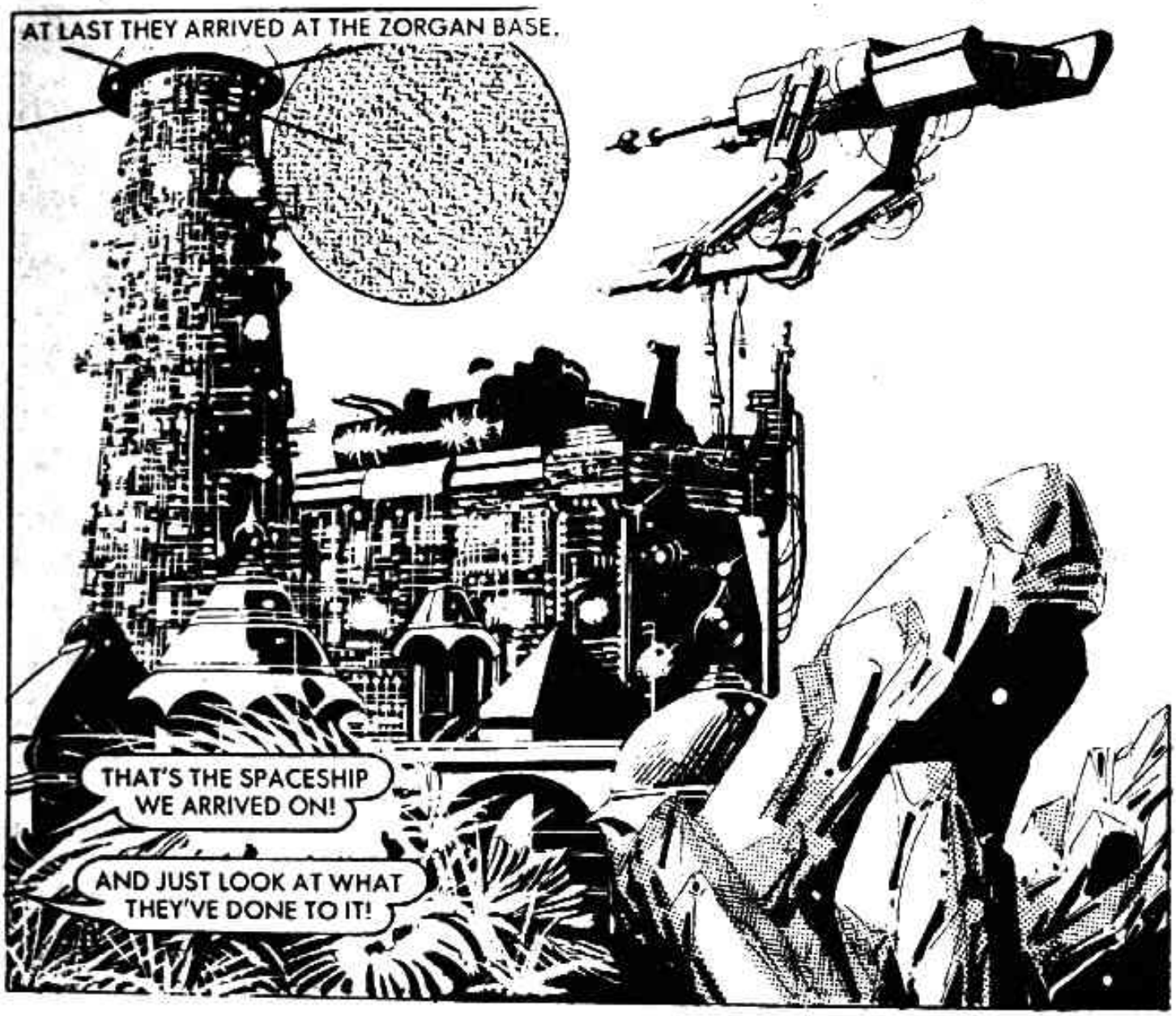
IF WE HAD WORKING JET PACKS OR A THOUSAND FOOT LASER ROPE WE MIGHT DO IT, BUT THEY'RE NOT THE SORT OF THINGS YOU FIND AROUND HERE!
YOU MIGHT BE WRONG ABOUT THAT, BORG!

I'VE SEEN CATERPILLARS SIMILAR TO THESE BEFORE.

HE SEARCHED UNTIL HE FOUND ONE OF THE GIANT CATERPILLARS SPINNING ITS COCOON.

HERE'S OUR ROPE! CATERPILLAR SILK! IT'S TOUGHER THAN STEEL! THERE'S MILES OF IT HERE AND IF IT'LL HOLD ITS WEIGHT IT'LL CERTAINLY HOLD OURS!

FOR MANY UNITS THEY FOUGHT THEIR WAY THROUGH ROUGH TERRAIN.
WHY DO YOU THINK THEY PICKED A PLANET LIKE THIS?
SECURITY! A DESERTED PLANET LIKE THIS WITH A MINIMUM OF INSTALLATIONS IS THE SAFEST PLACE. AS SOON AS THEY'VE EQUIPPED THEMSELVES WITH ZETAS THEY WON'T BOTHER WITH SECURITY — THE GALAXY WILL BE THEIRS FOR THE TAKING!


AT LAST THEY ARRIVED AT THE ZORGAN BASE.
THAT'S THE SPACESHIP WE ARRIVED ON!
AND JUST LOOK AT WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO IT!

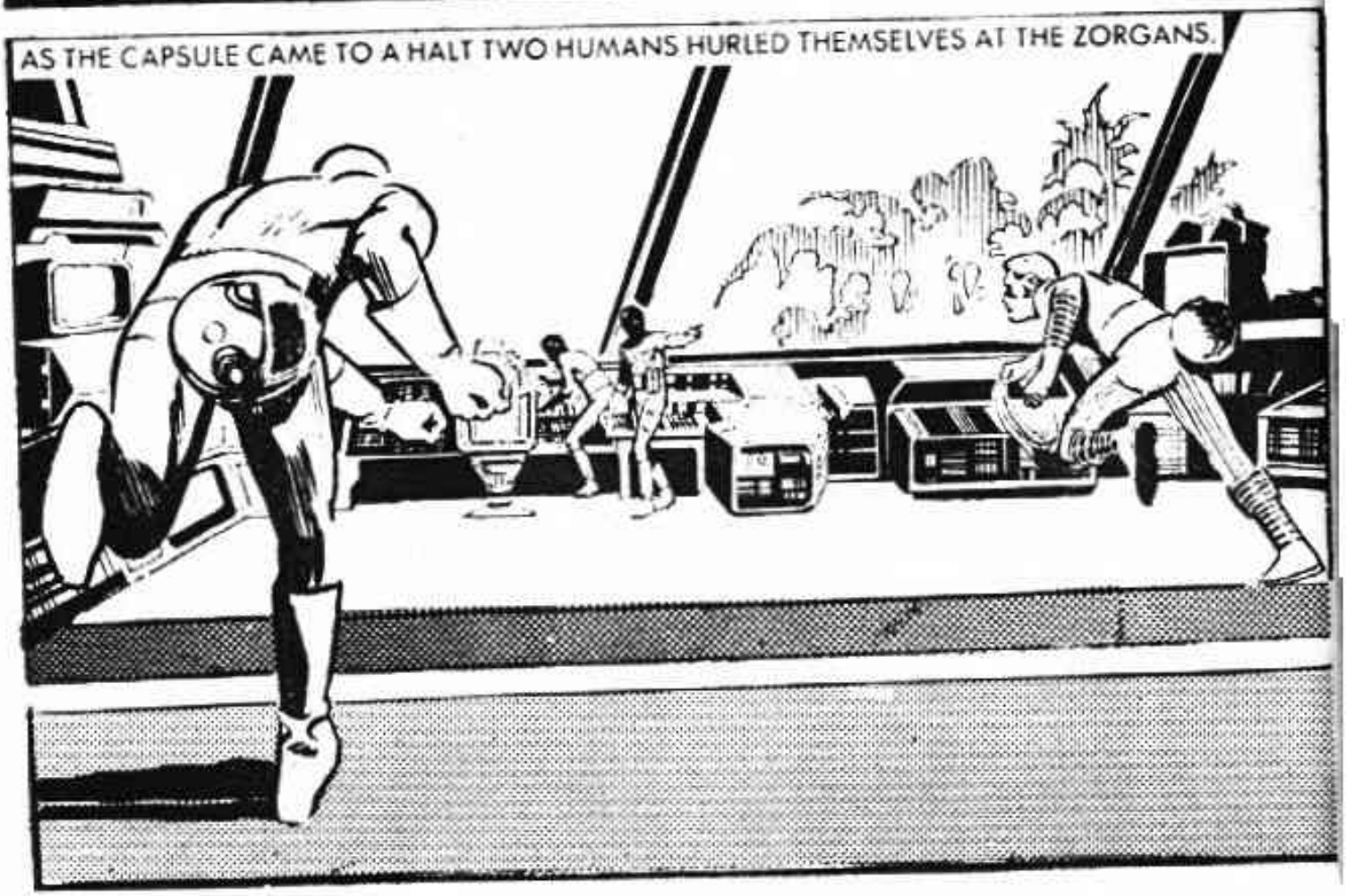
THEY'VE FITTED HER WITH A SHIP-SIZED ZETA DEVICE!
I SUPPOSE THAT TRAITOR VEEDOL HAS BEEN SENDING OUT INFORMATION FOR MONTHS AND THEY'VE BEEN BUILDING IT BIT BY BIT. ONCE THEY GOT THE FINAL PIECE OF INFORMATION IT WOULDN'T TAKE THAT LONG TO COMPLETE IT.

IT LOOKS AS IF THEY'RE GOING TO TEST IT OUT SOON.
THAT TOWER'S A DEEP SPACE TRANSMITTER! LET'S GET OVER THERE.

IF WE CAN GET IN THERE WE CAN TRANSMIT A MAYDAY TO EARTH FLEET. THERE'S BOUND TO BE ONE WITHIN RANGE!

THEY DEALT WITH THE SOLITARY GUARD —
THIS IS OUR LIFT!

HOW COME THIS PLACE ISN'T WELL GUARDED?
WHY SHOULD IT BE? THEY'RE NOT EXPECTING TROUBLE FROM THE PLANET. ALL THEIR SENSORS ARE SCOURING SPACE FOR BOTHER!


AS THE CAPSULE CAME TO A HALT TWO HUMANS HURLED THEMSELVES AT THE ZORGANS.

GET THEM!
GET TRANSMITTING! I'LL FIX OUR ESCAPE ROUTE—IT WON'T TAKE THEM LONG TO RUMBLE US NOW!
I'VE ALREADY STARTED.

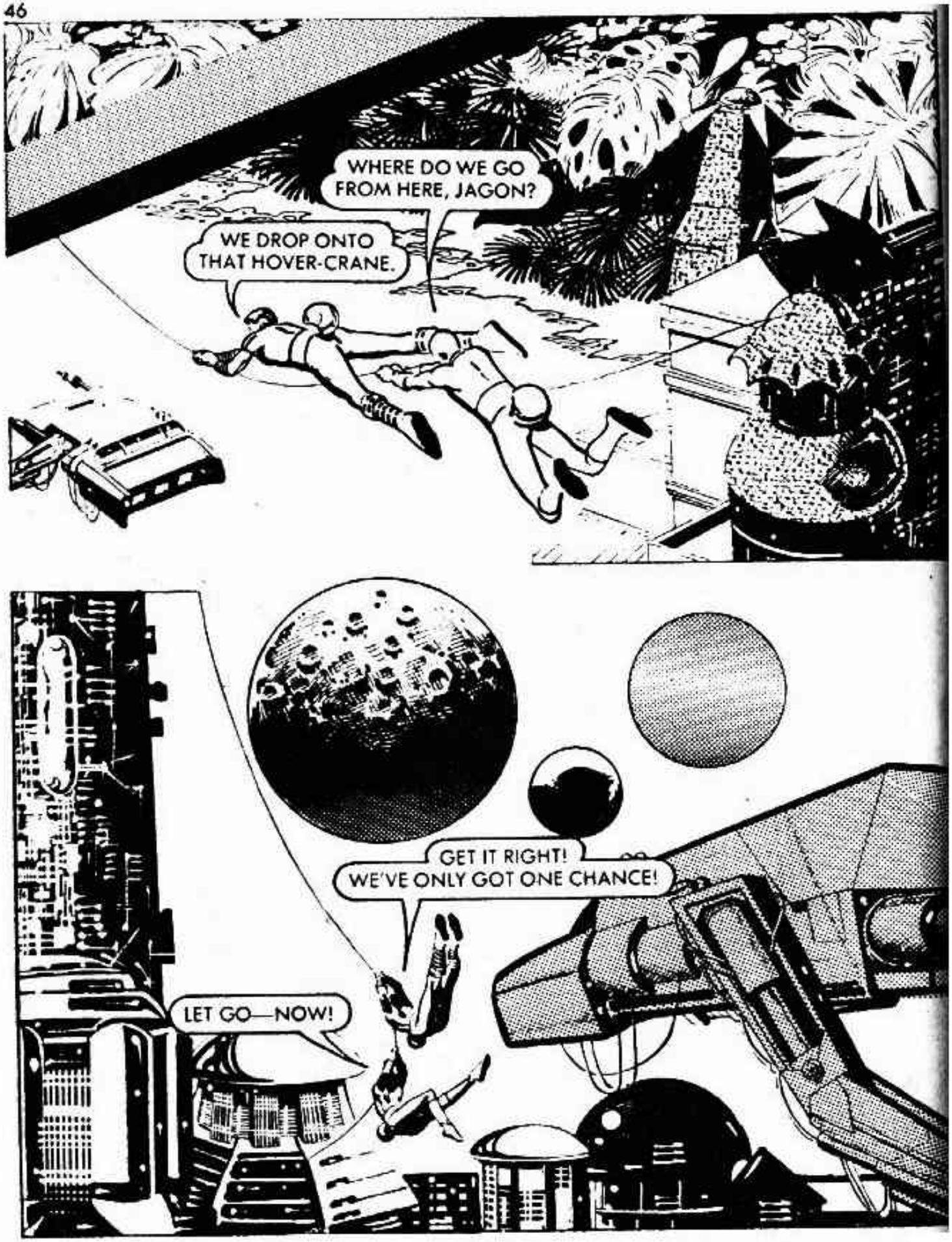
AS BORG BEGAN TO TRANSMIT HIS MESSAGE, JAGON RACED ALONG THE ANTENNA.
GOT TO MAKE THIS QUICK! NO ONE'S SEEN ME, YET.

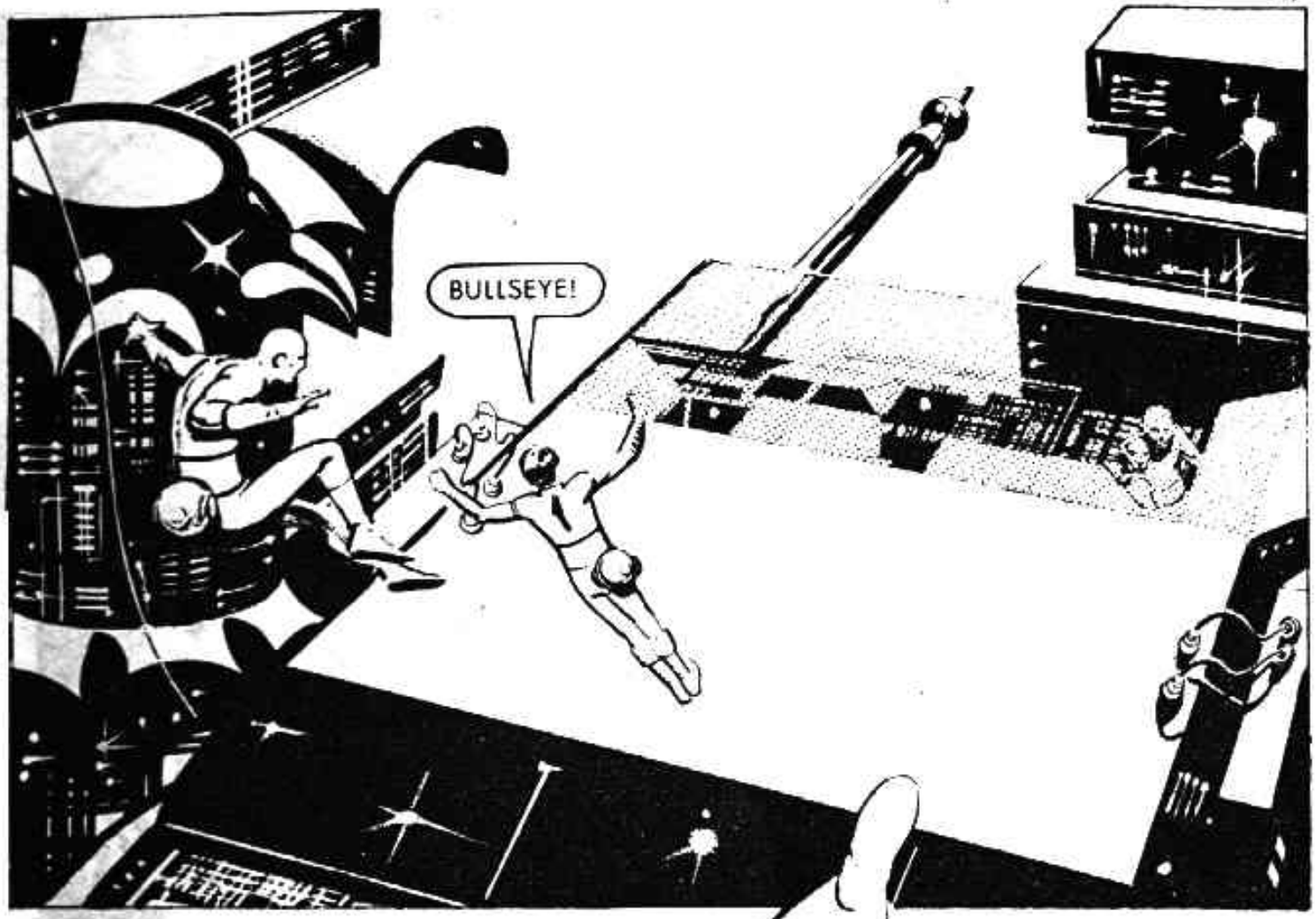
THAT SHOULD HOLD FAST —
AN EARTHMAN! SHOOT!

HAVE YOU MADE CONTACT, BORG?

I MADE CONTACT WITH A CRUISER AND HE'S FIXED OUR CO-ORDINATES!
GREAT! LET'S MOVE OUT BEFORE A SQUAD OF ZORGANS MOVE IN!

C'MON, BORG!
JUST SAYING GOODBYE!


WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE, JAGON?
WE DROP ONTO THAT HOVER-CRANE.
GET IT RIGHT! WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE!
LET GO—NOW!

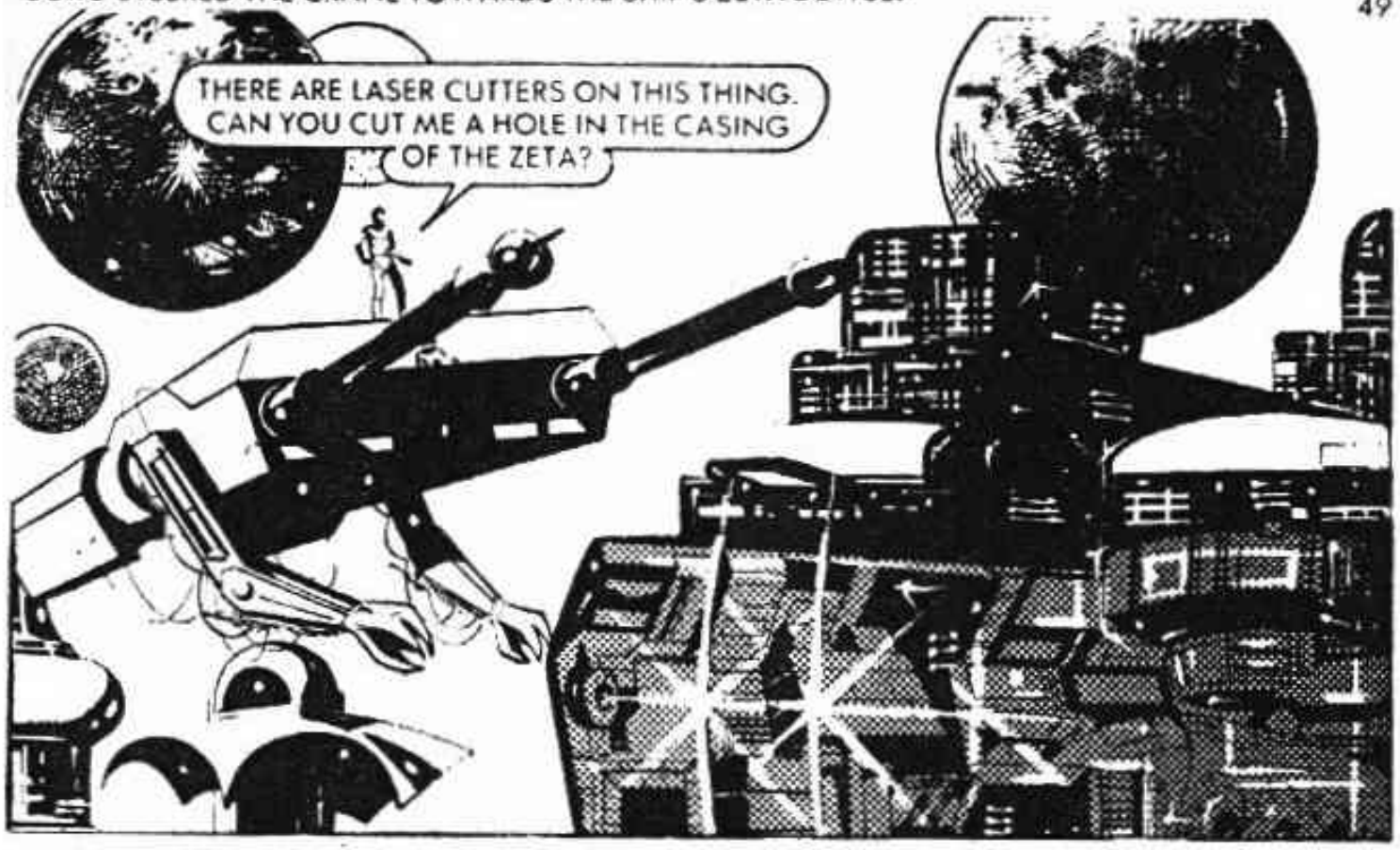

BULLSEYE!

THE SECOND JAGON HIT THE CRANE, HE WAS ROLLING TOWARDS THE CABIN —
GET YOUR HELMET ON, BORG.

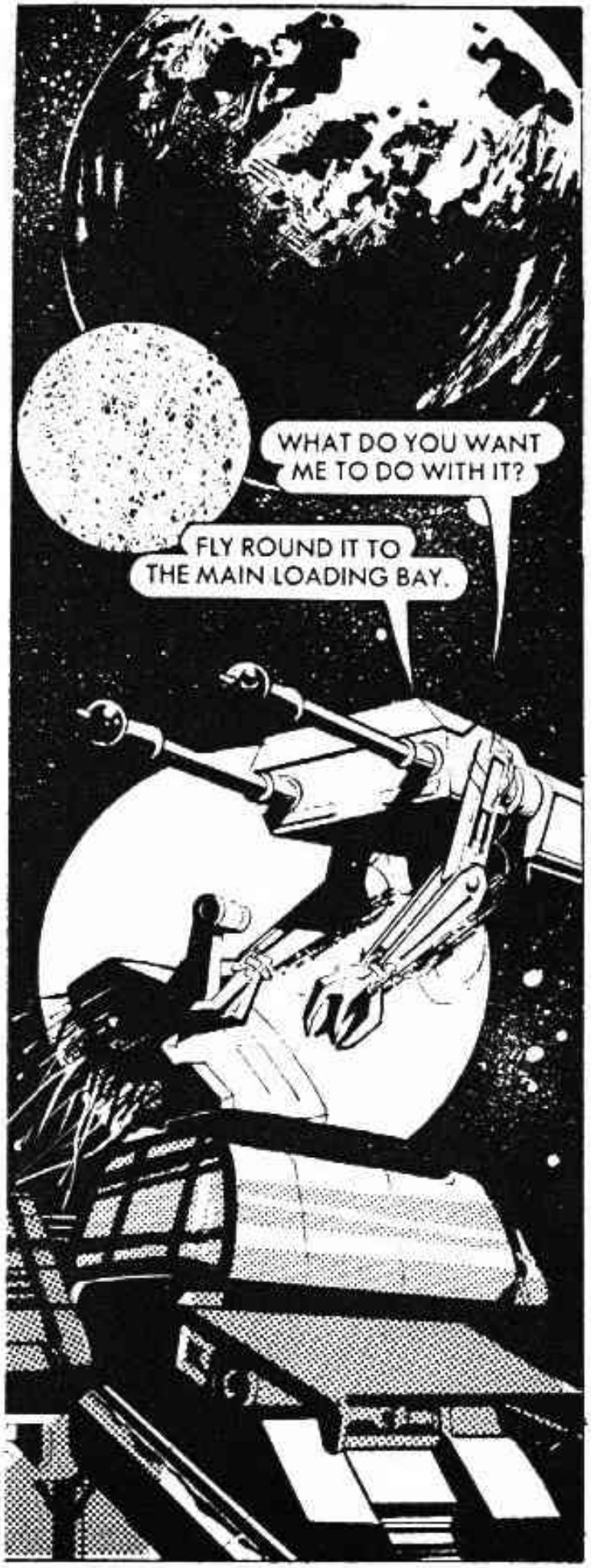
PRESENT FOR YOU, VERMIN!

THE HELMET POURED ITS STORE OF HIBERNATION GAS INTO THE CABIN AND THE ZORGANS COLLAPSED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS.

BORG STEERED THE CRANE TOWARDS THE SHIP'S ZETA DEVICE.



JAGON EXAMINED THE CIRCUITS AND THEN BEGAN TO MAKE SOME ADJUSTMENTS.
THEY'VE KEPT TO OUR ORIGINAL DESIGN — AND THAT MEANS IF I KILL THESE NEUTRON GUIDES I SHOULD GET THE DESIRED RESULTS.
OKAY, BORG. TAKE ME OFF WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
YOU'LL SEE! BUT FIRST, CAN YOU LIFT THE REST OF THAT CONSTRUCTION PLATFORM OFF THE SHIP?
THAT'S WHAT THIS THING IS FOR.


WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO WITH IT?
FLY ROUND IT TO THE MAIN LOADING BAY.

THERE IT IS! IT'S STILL OPEN.
YOU WANT ME TO KEEP IT OPEN WITH THIS?
THE CRAFT WAS DROPPED INTO THE LOADING BAY—

THEY WON'T CLEAR THAT LOT IN A HURRY!

JAGON PRESSED A SWITCH—
YOU DIDN'T SET THE ZETA TO EXPLODE. YOU SET IT TO SWITCH ON.
RIGHT!

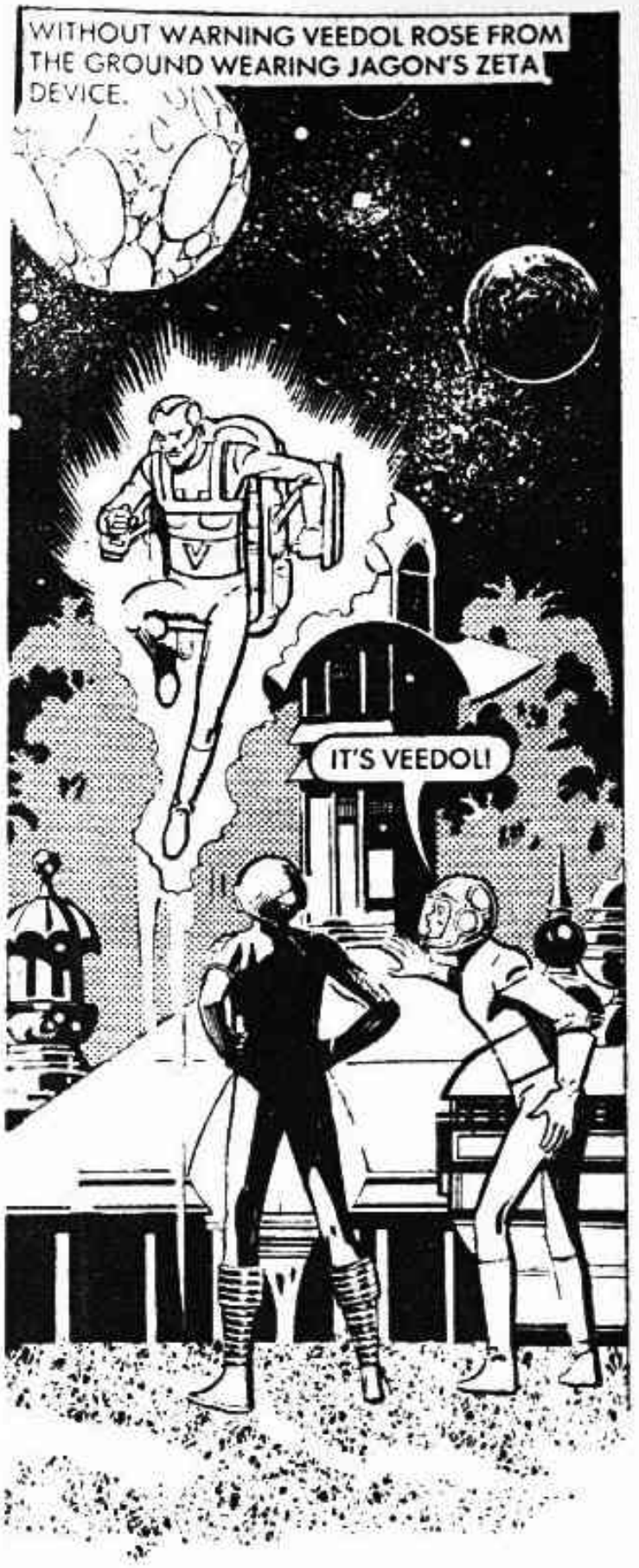
WITH THE ZETA DEVICE ACTIVATED, THE HUGE VESSEL BEGAN TO SINK INTO THE GROUND.
THE FORCE OF GRAVITY WILL SUCK THE SHIP DOWN TO THE PLANET'S CORE!
THEY'LL HAVE TO FIRE THEIR ENGINES TO BREAK FREE OF THE GRAVITY. THE ENGINES WON'T START UNTIL THEY'VE CLEARED THE LOADING BAY AND CLOSED THE DOORS.
SUDDENLY THE CRANE BEHIND THEM DISINTEGRATED WITH A BLINDING ROAR.
ZORGANS! I WONDERED WHERE THEY'D GOT TO!

I CAN'T CONTROL IT.
TIME WE LEFT.

AS THE TRANSMITTER TOWER LOOMED IN FRONT OF THEM, BORG HIT A BUTTON ON THE CONTROL PANEL. THE CABIN BLASTED FREE ON ITS EJECTOR.

THE CRANE'S HIT THE TOWER.
AND THE TOWER'S GOING TO HIT US. MOVE THIS THING!
THE ZORGAN BASE WAS IN DISARRAY—
IT'S FALLING!

THE TOWER COLLAPSED IN A SHEET OF FIRE.


WITHOUT WARNING VEEDOL ROSE FROM THE GROUND WEARING JAGON'S ZETA DEVICE.
IT'S VEEDOL!

LOOK AT HIM! HE'S SUFFOCATING!
HE CAN'T BREATHE THE SURROUNDING AIR WITH THE ZETA. WITHOUT A SURVIVAL SUIT HE MIGHT AS WELL BE IN A VACUUM.

HE'S SWITCHED IT OFF! HE'S FALLING!

MOVE IT, QUICK, WHILE THE ZORGANS ARE SPELLBOUND! THE NEXT BIT'S GOING TO BE NASTY!

AS THEY MADE THE COVER OF THE JUNGLE ANOTHER SQUAD OF ZORGANS APPEARED.
WHERE ARE THEY ALL COMING FROM?
UNDERGROUND! THE BASE MUST BE MOSTLY OUT OF SIGHT!

LOOKS AS IF THEY'RE DETERMINED TO FIND US!
THEY WON'T DO IT! ALL THESE ROCKS WILL BLOCK THEIR SENSORS!

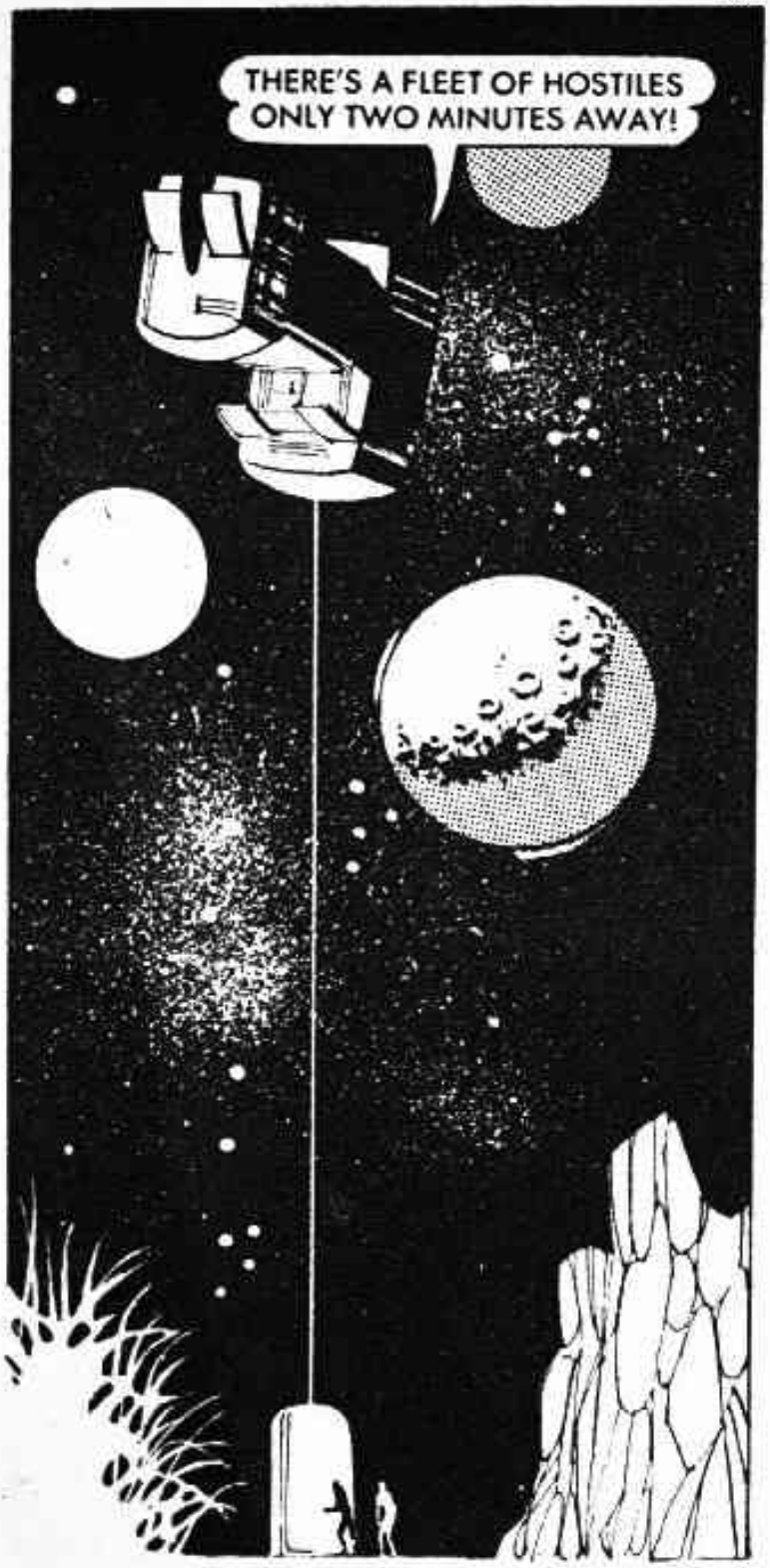
AFTER MANY CYCLES OF SEARCHING THE ZORGANS ABANDONED THE IDEA —
ALL UNITS WILL RETURN TO BASE.

THEY'VE GONE! I'VE TUNED MY COMMUNICATOR TO THE ZORGAN FREQUENCY — LISTEN.
WHEN OUR SHIPS ARRIVE WE'LL SEED THE AREA WITH NEUTRON ERADICATORS! THAT WILL RID US OF THEM FOR GOOD!
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

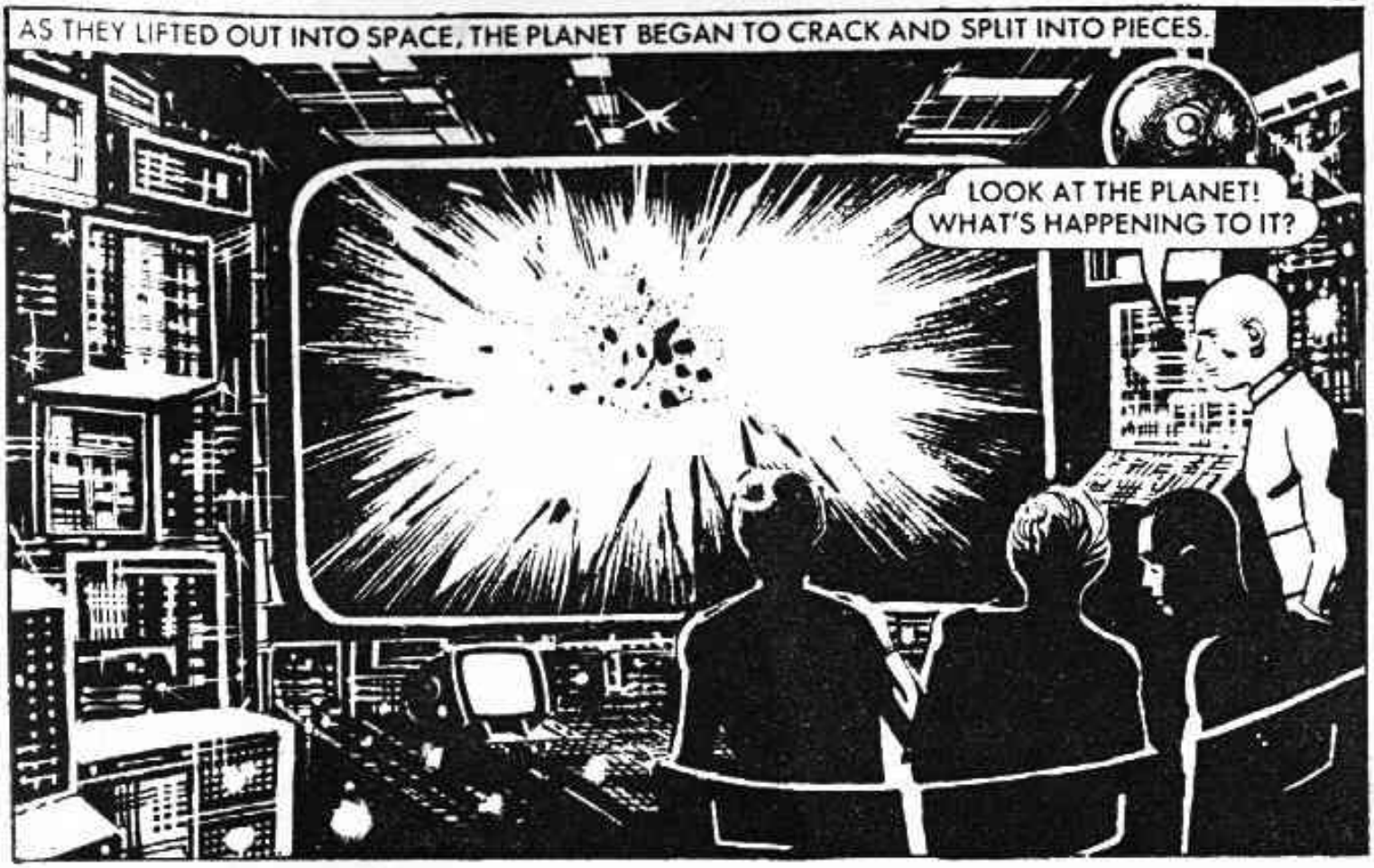
THE THUNDER OF SPACE ENGINES SHATTERED THE AIR —
HERE THEY COME!

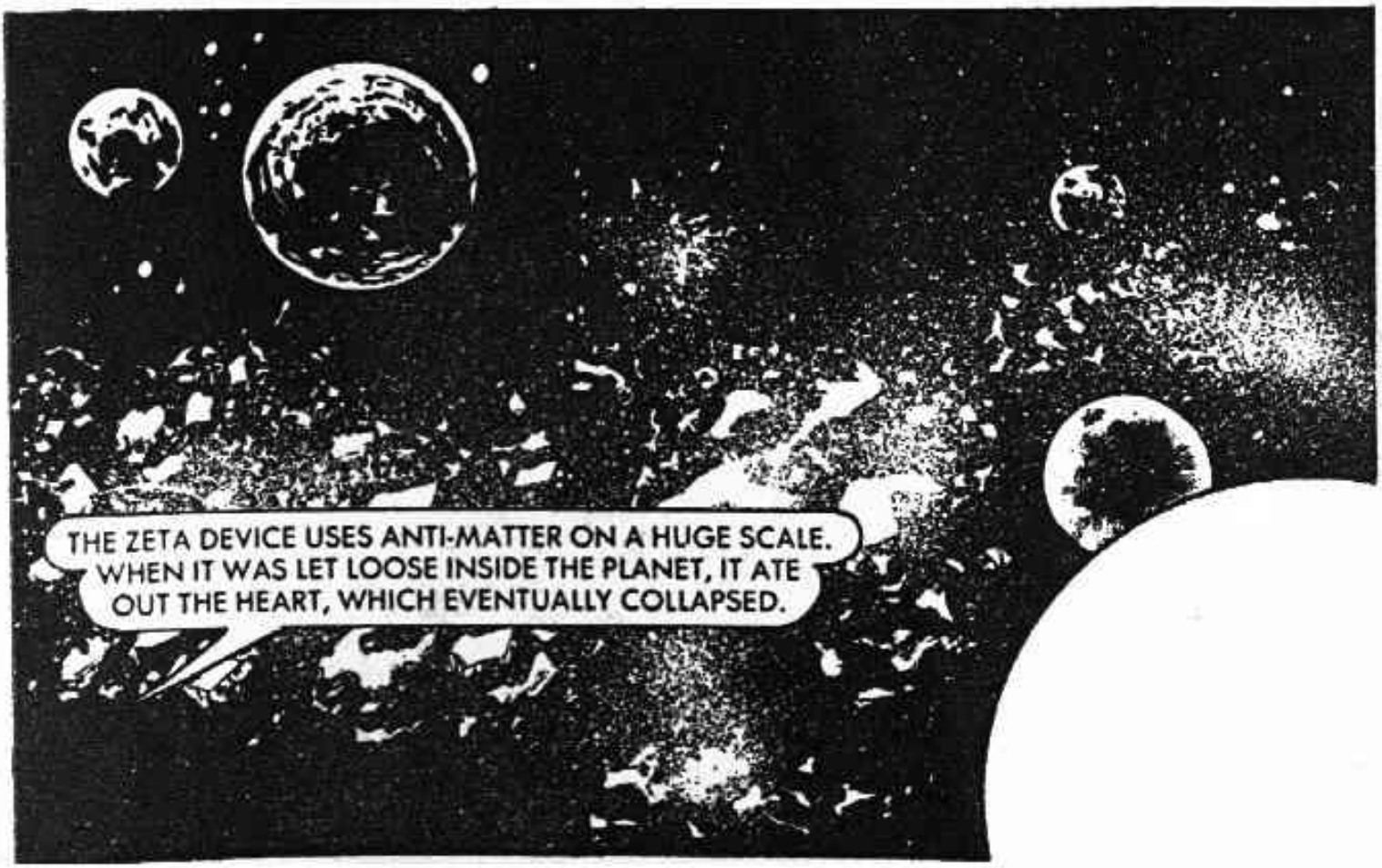
BUT IT ROARED PAST THEM AND BEGAN BLASTING THE ZORGAN BASE —
IT'S ONE OF OURS!

HELLO, EARTH CRUISER, DO YOU HEAR ME?
LOUD AND CLEAR! KEEP SENDING AND WE'LL PICK YOU UP!


THERE'S A FLEET OF HOSTILES ONLY TWO MINUTES AWAY!

CAN YOU DESTROY THEIR UNDERGROUND BASE, CAPTAIN?
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD GET THROUGH THAT FLEET!
I'D GET OUT OF HERE, BECAUSE I THINK THE ZETA DEVICE COULD DO OUR JOB FOR US.


AS THEY LIFTED OUT INTO SPACE, THE PLANET BEGAN TO CRACK AND SPLIT INTO PIECES.
LOOK AT THE PLANET! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO IT?


THE ZETA DEVICE USES ANTI-MATTER ON A HUGE SCALE. WHEN IT WAS LET LOOSE INSIDE THE PLANET, IT ATE OUT THE HEART, WHICH EVENTUALLY COLLAPSED.

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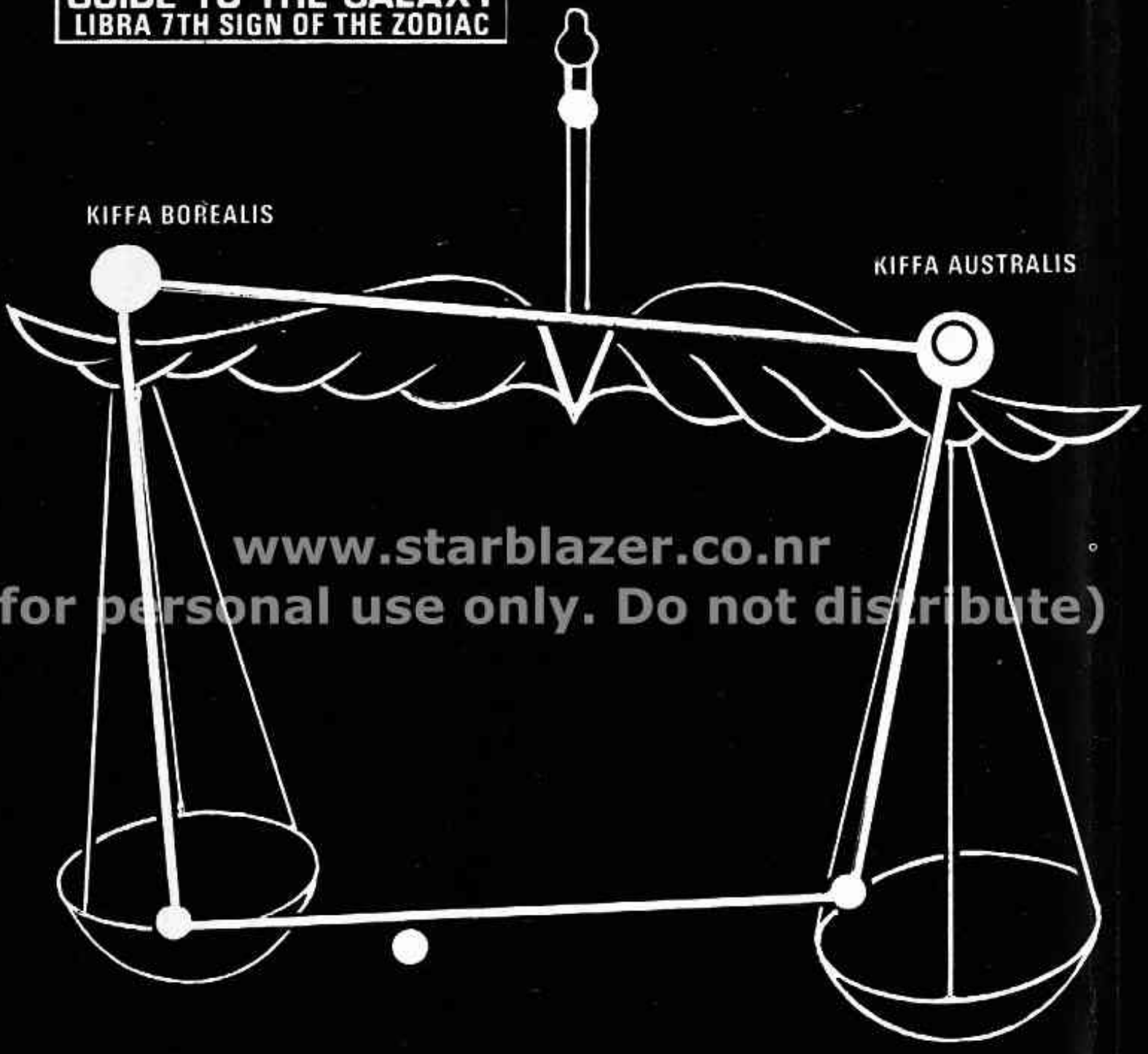

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A very small and difficult to spot constellation, Libra lies in the Southern Hemisphere. One of the twelve signs of the Zodiac.